ARCHANT publisher of KENT LIFE

FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk November 24, 2013

East edition No 583



PROFILE »

Injecting life into death

Remarkable woman behind top hospice

IN-DEPTH »

Revolution cooked up in our schools

The changing face of school dinners

NEWS »

Should we eat horsemeat?

Princess Royal sparks debate over attitudes to animals

FEATURE »

Doctor in the house

The county's links with the galaxy's top time traveller

Margate Theatres

Box Office: 01843 292795

www.margatewintergardens.co.uk W

www.theatreroyalmargate.com T

Working in partnership with Children in Need



Tues 26th Nov



Thurs 5th - Fri 6th Dec



Tues 10th Dec



Thurs 12th Dec



Sat 26th April

The best garage is a safe one



Security, convenience & reliability

When it comes to remote controlled rolling garage door systems, Essati is a leader in innovation and quality.

Since 1995 Essati has been an inventive roller shutter garage door company catering for the needs of the residential market place.

In 2006 Essati introduced the insulated aluminium rolling garage door system, a sleek and beautiful modern rollerdoor of superior quality, conveniently operated by a small hand held key fob. This system combines security, convenience and reliability, with a beautiful stylish door of infinity, and it's completely maintenance free!

ESSATI

www.essatigaragedoors.co.uk

01622 765993

Remote controlled insulated aluminium rolling garage door

JUST £699 inc vat & fitting

Kent on Sunday

November 24, 2013 **No 583** **www.kentnews.co.uk**

Where were you when we marked all these anniversaries?

SOME weeks, it seems, carry more significance than others.

Fifty years ago, three events took place which would generate almost as many headlines today as they did back then.

The assassination of John F Kennedy cast a dark shadow over the world and would forever change the political landscape of the world's biggest superpower. Every aspect of his life continues to spark discussion; be it his handling of the likes of the Cuban missile crisis, his personal relationships or, of course, his most brutal death – such explicit footage of which we are all so familiar with. Inside, an expert on American political history looks at how the Kennedy family fared after such horrific drama.

Just a few days before his death, an event rather closer to home would keep tongues wagging over the years almost as much as those who subscribe to Kennedy conspiracy theories.

The 50th anniversary of the opening of the Dartford Tunnel may not quite be worthy of bunting and Champagne, but as a feat of engineering it is worthy of applause, not to mention providing an essential link to the rest of the UK and becoming a victim of its own success.

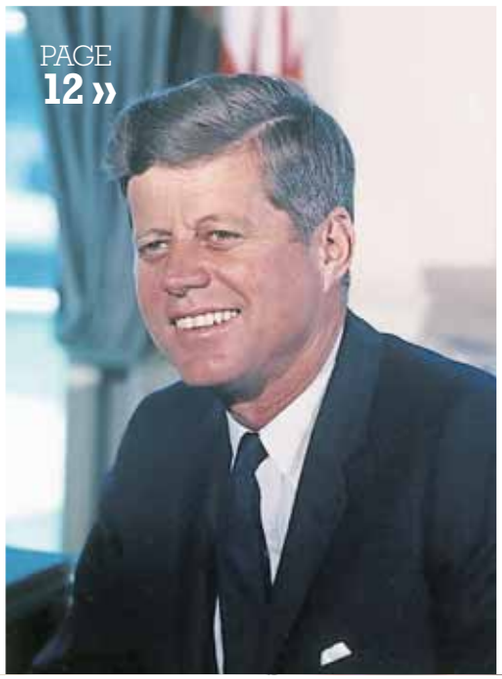
We take a look at its history and just what we can expect next year when the tolls disappear.

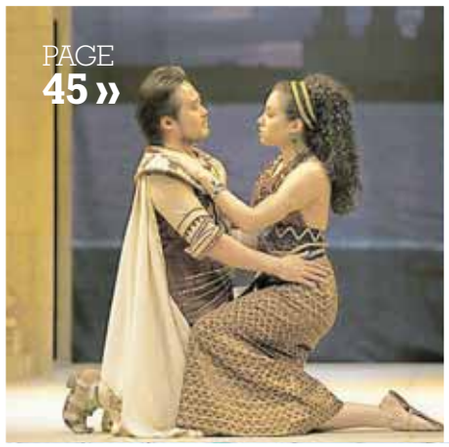
Then, of course, there's Doctor Who. He doesn't need to worry about a legacy - he just keeps regenerating. It may prove difficult to avoid him too this weekend, as he marks his anniversary in style.

In fact, perhaps his most popular incarnation continues to live among us, as we discover in a special look at his Kent links. On that note, I'll wish you all a fun time-travelling weekend.



Editor **Chris Britcher**


PAGE 12 »


PAGE 45 »


PAGE 24 »


PAGE 9 »


PAGE 61 »


PAGE 29 »

Contents

News

9 **Educating taste buds**
Drive to make school meals more appealing

12 **Shot still felt 50 years on**
JFK's assassination and the legacy it left

24 **Tunnel open to change**
A toll new world ready for Dartford's crossing

29 **Doctor's Kent time travels**
Time Lord no stranger to Garden of England

The Arts

45 **Making the right noise**
Impresario talks opera with a touch of nudity

48 **Darkness are lightening up**
Heavy rockers return from rehab and split

48 **What's on?**
The week's top events

Food

48 **Taking curry back to India**
Award-winning chef's next big adventure to open in subcontinent

Business

59 **Town centre of attraction**
Maidstone enjoying a shopping renaissance

Sport

70 **Ex-player's heartfelt plea**
Tobi Alabi's battle after life-threatening attack

Plus

Seven days Pages 5-7
Winter warmers Page 47
Feedback Page 53
Property Page 69
Driving Page 61
Appointments Page 64

HOW TO CONTACT US...
Publisher: Simon Irwin
Email simon.irwin@archant.co.uk
Editor: Chris Britcher
Email chris.britcher@archant.co.uk
Address:
Apple Barn, Smeeth, TN25 6SS
Editorial: News: 01303 817100
Leisure: 01303 817022
Sport: 01303 817177
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising:
Jobs/Notices: 01303 817056:
Business: 01303 817056
Email appointments@kosmedia.co.uk
Retail/Leisure/Motors: 01303 817150
Email sales@kosmedia.co.uk
Distribution: 01303 817072

FOLLOW US ONLINE @
- kentnews.co.uk
- kentnews.co.uk/mobile
- jobsforkent.co.uk
- homes24.co.uk
- drive24.co.uk
- twitter@kosmedia

Published in Kent and printed by Archant Print, division of Archant Community Media Limited (Co Reg No 19300). Registered Office: Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE

ARCHANT Inspiring Communities

TRIPLE GLAZING AS STANDARD!



40% OFF!*

To introduce Britelite's Triple Glazing as standard we are offering 40% off our list price! A superb opportunity for you to enjoy all the benefits of our A+9 energy efficient triple glazed windows as standard!



TRIPLE THE BENEFITS, TRIPLE THE ENERGY SAVINGS, TRIPLE THE SECURITY...

1



Energy Performance

- Thermal Energy rating of A+9 as opposed to our double glazing which is A+2

2



Security

- 10 point locking system with deadbolt Security
- £1,000 Anti intrusion Cover Guarantee

3



Sound Reduction

- 32db sound reduction means that triple glazing will make your home noticeably quieter. Perfect for homes near to trainlines, busy roads and airports

Showrooms throughout the South East

See website for full addresses

Visit our website for a FREE online quote
www.britelitewindows.co.uk

CALL FREE 0800 50 50 70

† As required to meet British Standards
* off list price

Could protection zone status bury airport plan?

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk



CONSERVATION: Marine life living in the Medway Estuary will benefit from the new protected zones

THREE new marine conservation zones (MCZs) will be created on the Kent coast to protect areas rich in wildlife – and one could scupper plans for the controversial Thames Estuary airport.

Medway Estuary was among those selected by the Government as one of the new zones, which aims to preserve coastal habitats deemed environmentally important.

The new MCZ in Medway is an inshore site located from Rochester down to the mouth of the estuary and extends seawards to include an area between Sheerness and the Isle of Grain.

In total, some 60 kilometres square has been granted protection from damaging activities, such as trawling and dredging, but at the same time allowing for sustainable activity including fishing and recreation.

What is unlikely to be allowed is major development – the kind that would come with a four-runway hub airport, such as that put forward by architects Foster + Partners.

A detailed blueprint for a £24 billion airport on Grain was submitted earlier this year to the Davies Commission, the committee set up to examine the UK's aviation need.

But this new MCZ could scupper the plans due to its potential environmental impact on the area. Medway Council has been avid in its opposition to the airport and this latest news will come as a huge boost to its anti-airport campaign.

Deputy leader Alan Jarrett said: "We think it is fair to say every scheme put forward doesn't add up.

"They all come at huge cost to the public purse, are on the wrong side of London, would lead to Heathrow's closure - damaging the British economy - and be in an area where planes are at a much greater risk of bird-strike and fog than inland sites."

Four sites in Kent were proposed for MCZ designation by Natural England. Eleven were initially put forward but this number was cut down by the Government.

The four were Medway Estuary, Thanet Estuary, Folkestone Pomerania and Hythe Bay.

Of those, Hythe Bay was the only one not to have been granted the protection, with the decision being deferred until the New Year.

Commercial fisherman believe designation could result in them losing their businesses.

Kent's MCZs are among 27 in English seas, far fewer than the 127 recommended as at-risk by Natural England.

College secures £9.7m cash pot to build 'hotel' as top training facility

FURTHER education received a boost this week after East Kent College secured £9.7 million of Government funding to develop its Broadstairs campus.

The Skills Funding Agency has given the cash - with the college contributing a further £1m - to allow the institution to upgrade its Grade II-listed Yarrow building.

College chiefs have ambitious plans to build a state-of-the-art hotel and hospitality training centre in what tourism chiefs for the county describe as a "game-changer".

Once work is complete, it will provide what the college calls the "ideal learning environment" for those on tourism, creative industries and business courses.

Principal Graham Razey said: "This is a significant investment and we are delighted that, depending on planning approval, we are going to be able to turn an historic building into a real work environment for our students.

"The new facilities will also provide a large number of apprenticeship places across a much wider range of careers than is currently available."

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive of tourism champions Visit Kent, said: "This is game-changing news for young people as well as the tourism and hospitality industry in east Kent and right across the county.

"We are looking forward to working even more closely with the students and the college to develop and nurture the highest standards of customer service and delivery which will benefit hotels and hospitality providers in Kent and much further afield."

East Kent College was previously known as Thanet College until a 2012 rebrand.

The Yarrow building was previously the Yarrow Convalescent Home for Children.

The college has long since stopped using the building and has made previous bids to sell the site off to developers.

Rapist plied victims with beer to stop them speaking out

A SEX beast from Maidstone who raped two young boys then plied them with beer and money to buy their silence has been jailed for 18 years.

Craig Tomlin, 29, of Oxford Road, was arrested in October 2012 after the victims came forward to report the crimes, which took place between 1999 and 2008.

Tomlin was convicted of four counts of rape and two counts of indecent assault. He received four 18-year sentences for rape, to be served concurrently, and two eight-year terms for the sexual assaults, also to be served concurrently.

DC Rachel Freeman said: "I am glad his victims have been brave enough after all these years to come forward and ensure justice has been served."

Can you shed light on how victim ended up injured?

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a man was left needing surgery and nursing a host of broken bones on a Maidstone street.

Emergency services were alerted at around 2.30am on Wednesday morning after the man was found in Barker Road.

Initial reports suggest he had been hit by a van which had then driven off.

Following a search, two men, aged 21 and 24, from Yorkshire, were stopped and arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm.

They were interviewed and released on bail pending further investigation.

Officers are now appealing for anyone who saw the collision, or events leading up to, or following the incident, to contact them.

» Download your free **Kent News iPhone** and **iPad App** available at the Apple App Store

» Follow us on Twitter **@kosmedia** or Facebook **KOS Media**

seven days

Making the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Parties united in row over mental block closure

MEMBERS of Medway Council have hit back at the news that 'A' Block at the Medway Maritime Hospital in Gillingham, which provides acute mental health inpatient beds, will close.

It follows an announcement by health secretary Jeremy Hunt.

David Brake, portfolio holder for adult services, and Teresa Murray, deputy leader of the Labour group and group health spokeswoman, said: "This decision will clearly dismay patients and their families, who all rely on this facility during times of crisis.

"A cross-party group of councillors worked to try and prevent the loss and jointly funded an independent study, which clearly showed why this shouldn't happen."

The councillors vow to fight on to make sure the area's most vulnerable receive "appropriate treatment".

Heroine of Dunkirk sails home in all her glory for final stage of restoration

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

ONE of the flotilla of small vessels which crossed the English Channel to rescue Allied troops from the beaches of Dunkirk during the Second World War, sailed back into Kent this week.

The Medway Queen paddle steamer has been undergoing extensive renovations at a Bristol boatyard over recent months.

It started the journey back along the south coast last week and arrived back at Gillingham Pier in Rochester on Tuesday, towed by a tug.

There was a special welcoming committee to greet it, organised by the Medway Queen Preservation Society, which has been behind plans to restore it.

The boat had started life as a paddle steamer ferrying people between the Medway towns and Southend-on-Sea.

But she would be defined in 1940 when she and her crew made seven crossings to rescue some 7,000 troops.

Picture: BOB STOKES



STEAMER: Under construction

Such was her role, she was dubbed the Heroine of Dunkirk.

After returning to service off the Kent coast after the war, she eventually fell into disrepair and would ultimately rot away moored off the pier.

The preservation society set about raising funds and securing grants for the repair work - also giving local apprentices the chance to hone their skills as part of the process.

The society's aim is to restore the ship, bringing her back to working condition. However, it is thought unlikely she will once again return to offering a passenger service, although that remains to be confirmed.

Paul Maloney of the GMB union, which has backed the restoration project, said it was great to see her back in the county.

He said: "GMB and many others have backed the restoration of the Medway Queen from the very beginning.

"It is wonderful to consider that it will be home in Rochester for the next stage of its total restoration to begin. The work and enjoyment that the whole project has brought to the area is a tribute to the many volunteers who have driven the project."



SWITCH ON: Penny Smith

Star shines as town lights up following theft

TENTERDEN has got used to making headlines for its Christmas lights over the last 12 months – so it is perhaps fitting it has recruited a former news reader to turn them on this year.

The town saw almost all its festive illuminations stolen by thieves just before they were due to be switched on last November. In the end, just a few emergency lights went up.

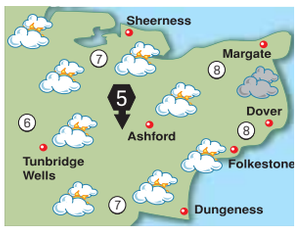
Then in August, it made national headlines again after turning on the first of its lights in August, during the summer heatwave, in a bid to raise awareness of a fundraising drive to raise £15,000 to allow the town to be lit once more this winter.

And after securing the cash, the town has secured TV and radio star Penny Smith to flick the switch.

Formerly with Sky and GMTV, she is now a regular on BBC Radio 2's Steve Wright Show and co-presents the Breakfast Show on BBC London.

Tenterden Chamber of Commerce events manager, Jonathan Medes, said: "We're thrilled. It's a great way to mark the success of our campaign to replace the lights which went missing last year."

The switch-on takes place next Sunday, December 1, at the Town Hall at 4.30pm, following a candle-lit procession.



TODAY: Dry with sunshine and variable cloud. Gentle winds. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F). **TONIGHT:** Mostly dry with variable cloud. Min temp 3-6C (37-43F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	02.30	6.0	14.45	5.6
Margate	03.22	4.3	15.55	4.2
St Mary's	08.18	4.8	20.43	4.5

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 8C	Min 2C
Tuesday	Max 7C	Min 2C
Wednesday	Max 8C	Min 2C
Thursday	Max 8C	Min 3C
Friday	Max 8C	Min 2C
Saturday	Max 8C	Min 3C

TV star recovers from latest health scare

PRESENTER Paul O'Grady was recovering back at his rural retreat near Ashford this weekend after a health scare saw him rushed to hospital.

The host of his own chat show on ITV1, the 58-year-old was admitted to hospital on Monday afternoon after complaining of ill health.

He was diagnosed with having an angina attack – caused by an area of the heart muscle receiving a decreased blood oxygen supply. Those who suffer from angina can normally control the condition through medication.

Mr O'Grady, who lives in Aldington, has already suffered two heart attacks.

A statement from his management read: "He has undergone routine tests which have shown all is fine. He will be going home to rest for a few days before returning to work."

Mr O'Grady added: "I am feeling much better - I would like to thank all the nursing staff for their kindness and everyone who has texted or phoned in wishing me well."

Armed raiders land heavy jail sentences

TWO armed robbers who carried out a string of raids on newsagents, threatening staff with metal baseball bats, are this week starting long jail terms.

Duncan Snape and Robert Powsey stole more than £36,000 during a 15-month spree, targeting nine convenience stores across the Medway towns, Gravesend, Longfield, Aylesford and Ashford.

Dressed in balaclavas, the pair carried out the raids in the early hours of the morning, threatening frightened shop staff with baseball bats, sledgehammers and pick axes, before tying them up and grabbing handfuls of cash.

In an attempt to throw police off the scent, they also used fake northern, southern and Irish accents when carrying out the robberies.

Snape, 41, of Chapel Yard, London, was found guilty and jailed for 14 years. Powsey, 42, of Peacock Rise, Chatham, pleaded guilty and was jailed for nine years and nine months.

GPS leads police to stolen Apple iPad

OWNER of a stolen Apple iPad managed to direct police to recover it after activating its in-built tracking device.

The tablet had been stolen in Tunbridge Wells earlier this month.

The owner then activated the in-built GPS which allowed police from Tonbridge to track it down to an address in Lewisham, south London.

Officers say the device was packaged up and appeared ready to be posted abroad.

A 65-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of theft, and later released on bail until January 7 as police continue to investigate.

Detective Chief Inspector Neil Parker said: "This is a fantastic example of how important it is for tablet and mobile phone owners to take advantage of the various tracking applications that are available for devices that have GPS capability. In this case the victim tracked the iPad and kept us updated with its location. We were able to react to this information and retrieve the item."

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Manston deal set for completion in £1 sale

COMPLETION of the £1 sale of Thanet's Manston Airport to the co-founder of bus giant Stagecoach should take place by Friday.

Former owner Infratil had put the former RAF airfield on the market in March 2012. It was snapped up last month for just £1.

The overall cost of completing the deal, however, is expected to reach some £350,000.

Deadline for completion of the deal was set for November 29.

New owner Ann Gloag, who formed Stagecoach with her brother, businessman Brian Souter, said she believed there was real potential for growth.

Manston is frequently touted as a major asset to east Kent's economy



but has struggled in recent years with a string of failed attempts to establish passenger flights.

Earlier this year, however, KLM began operating a daily service to Schiphol in Amsterdam.

Debate over problematic roll-out of NHS 111 service

AMID the growing sense of unease surrounding pressure on A&E departments, County Hall members will discuss this week the success or otherwise of the new NHS 111 number in Kent, which looked to help ease demand.

The service, which replaced NHS Direct in April, was rolled out gradually across the county but came under fire following problems including patients not been able to get through at peak times.

This was blamed on teething problems and the sheer number of callers. The NHS said improvements have since been made. Health and overview committee members will discuss the service on Friday.

...also

Delays for A21 drivers

MOTORISTS using the busy A21 in the west of the county are being advised of delays to look out for this week.

For six nights from Tuesday, the road will be closed at Burgess Farm. And there will be lane closures on November 28, at Lamberhurst, due to resurfacing.

Six face court for murder

SIX people will appear in court connected with the murder of Gary Pocock on a Sheppey beach in August.

Mr Pocock, 34, of Dagenham, Essex, died from head injuries.

All six will enter a plea at Maidstone Crown Court on Friday, November 29.

Rochester Airport talks

MEDWAY Council's cabinet will meet on Tuesday to discuss findings from a consultation into the contentious Rochester Airport expansion masterplan.

They will look at issues raised and possible responses with a view to seeking approval for the plans in January 2014.

Trio in TV race for cash

THOUSANDS of pounds are up for grabs for community projects with the return of ITV Meridian's People's Millions.

On Monday and Tuesday, three Kent projects will go head-to-head to receive cash; Broadstairs Town Shed, Ellington Park and Herne Bay Coastal Park.

With burglaries at their peak during the festive period, don't be a victim this Christmas...



Fully installed & monitored intruder alarm system, including 2 detectors & 2 door contacts, payable over 3 months at just £250 inc vat per month*!

Only 50 systems available on this offer – call today to secure yours!

HOWFIELD RESPONSE 01227 458999

*Subject to a 5 year monitoring & maintenance contract at £15 inc vat per month

Intruder alarms ✓ CCTV ✓ Fire alarm & equipment ✓ Key holding ✓ Safes ✓ Access control ✓ Key cutting & locksmiths

3 Simmonds Road ✓ Wincheap ✓ Canterbury ✓ CT1 3RA ✓ 01227 458999 ✓ www.howfield.com

Sherborne

Keswick
2 seat manual
reclining sofa
Nasons price
£1335
Now £1065

NASONS
offer you
20%
off the complete
Sherborne
collection



Keswick
petite rise &
recline chair
Nasons price
£1235
Now£985

Rise & recline chairs available for VAT exemption,
T's & C's apply



Keswick
manual
recliner
Nasons price
£825
Now £659

Sherborne
5 Year
Guarantee
ON ALL
ELECTRICAL
COMPONENTS,
ACTIONS &
FRAMES

NASONS of Canterbury



Nasons Furniture & Bed Centre
Maynard Road, Wincheap, Canterbury CT1 3RQ
Free parking in front of the showroom
Free local delivery over £300 T&Cs apply
01227 463550 www.nasons.co.uk



Hot topic of conversation that's on education's lips

Joe Bill reports on the current change in attitude to school meals and how around the county companies and schools are improving what's on offer – benefiting both your child's health and learning

LUMPY mashed potato, stodgy spotted dick and slimy semolina – the mere mention of school dinners can conjure up some powerful memories.

But there is a very real danger that its past continues to determine its future; that school meals are stuck in a rut of previous mistakes and parent recollections.

Which would be rather unfair given the transformation which has been taking place in the kitchens of schools across the county and, indeed, the nation.

Today, the link between the nutrional benefits of ensuring our children eat well and their academic success is widely trumpeted.

Teachers report those youngsters having school meals have better levels of concentration during afternoon sessions; that communal eating enhances their social skills.

And by providing a balanced meal, they avoid the pitfalls of a lunchbox full of fizzy drinks and sugar-heavy snacks.

In short, get it right and it can help us raise a healthier generation.

Get it wrong – and there is much to suggest for many years it was – the health impacts can be significant.

Or at least so the argument goes.

Love him or loathe him, celebrity chef Jamie Oliver has been hugely influential in challenging the former status quo, highlighting nutrional flaws of a diet of junk food and the woefully small amount of money spent on the food (see box).

He helped ignite a sea change of opinion which has long since flowed into the political arena.

And there appears to be no let-up in its pace.

Earlier this year, the Government launched its School Food Plan, designed to encouarge more youngsters to have a hot, balanced meal during the day.

Amid much fanfare, deputy prime minister Nick Clegg announced the Coalition's plans to fund meals for every child at Reception and Years One and Two; in short, throughout their infant schooling.

But this generosity doesn't come cheap. The bill will cost the Government some £600 million. But it does solve the concerns of many parents.

While few would argue that their children would benefit from a hot meal, many cannot afford it, especially if they have more than one child going through the education system.

That appears to be underlined by take-up of school meals standing at just 43 per cent nationally.

And Kent doesn't even reach that.

In the county, the current price of a school meal ranges between £2.15 and £2.30 per day – so roughly £11 a week. A small cost in itself, but more of an issue for parents of two or more children; suddenly it starts adding up to more than £100 a month.

In an audit from April 2012 to March 2013, the schools which use catering groups provided via Kent County Council (KCC) revealed there was only a 31 per cent take up.

"We have to change the way they are viewed," said Carol Smith, head teacher at More Park Catholic Primary School in West Malling.

"We have had an increase in children having school meals, but we are still only just above the Kent average.

"We are working on improving this all the time because we think it is very important.

"That is one of the reasons why we go and meet parents and discuss school meals before their children even start at the school."

As the local education authority, KCC caters for 223 primary and just two secondary schools through its catering framework.

PAGE 10 »

« PAGE 9

School pictures: ADY KERRY



Awarded via a tendering process, five companies each take a slice of the county and service those schools which wish to take advantage of the central contract.

It is a number which has been eroded as more and more schools opt out of local authority control to become academies.

Each contract is monitored carefully, with KCC keen to ensure "hygiene standards are maintained while menus and portion sizes meet the Government food-based and nutrient-based standards".

The KCC contract rules include a minimum of 75 per cent of dishes being freshly prepared while all meat, dairy, fruit, vegetables and salads, and harvestable crops like cereals and sugar, meet the Assured Farm Standards Assurance Schemes.

Roger Gough is KCC cabinet member for education and health reform and has taken part in a nationwide campaign to boost awareness of a new age in school meals.

He said: "We want to show parents that school meals are not how we remember they were.

"Firstly, they undoubtedly provide an affordable and healthy meal for children and there has been a lot of effort over the last few years to enhance the quality of the meals.

"There is some evidence that for many children that sort of meal in the middle of the day boosts their attention in class during the afternoon.

"So it's good for their behaviour and performance and it's a good part for the social life of the school.

"We think there is something there that is worth us making people much more aware of."

Whole School Meals is a not-for-profit catering company which started up in 2005 after parents and school governors decided to do something about the poor standard of school meals.

Its chairman and founder is Stephanie Hayman. She was inspired to take action after being left appalled at the standard of school meals that were on offer to her son.

Fired up by Jamie Oliver's campaign she decided to something about it.

She explained: "It was very disappointing and as a parent I thought it was so important children had a nutritious hot meal which evidently wasn't happening.

"So I became a school governor. I thought we weren't carrying out our duties to the children fully if we were allowing this very poor quality of school meal to continue. In fact, we thought we could do it far better ourselves. So we took control."

Along with head teachers and governors from the same cluster of local schools, Mrs Hayman created a group that could be controlled and owned by the schools – but without the headaches of managing it day-to-day; and so Whole School Meals was created.

She adds: "We have a small management team of six, the rest of our staff are based in the schools as cooking teams. There are a few schools which don't have their own kitchens so we cook at a neighbouring facility and deliver the food to them.

"It's also really important that any profit we make doesn't go to shareholders or anything like that – it really does go back into the school."

Whole School Meals entered the KCC tendering process in 2006, securing the deal it needed to service its cluster of schools, while still ensuring it met KCC guidelines.

Mrs Hayman said: "Prior to that bidding round, the county had been organised into two massive contracts, so there were no opportunities for smaller organisations and social enterprises to compete on that scale.

"KCC then took an enlightened decision to break it down into smaller contracts, so they were all of a viable size to serve the school clustering groups.

"My son's school was in a contract with 21 others and we effectively won the right to be the school meals provider for them."

Whole School Meals now creates about 3,000 school meals a day and operates in 24 primary schools and one secondary school in east Kent including Deal Castle Community College, Warden House Primary, Kingsdown and Ringwould School, Hythe Bay Primary and the Churchill Primary School in Hawkinge.

> **"What I'd like to see is more children eating school lunches and fewer packed lunches; children feeling healthier and more energetic throughout the day"**
>
> **Michael Gove,** the education secretary on hopes for future

And Mrs Hayman's efforts do not go unnoticed. Earlier this month she won the Hero of the Year trophy at the inaugural Kent Life/Kent on Sunday Food and Drink Awards for her efforts.

Certainly the Government's recent focus suggests there is a renewed enthusiasm and commitment – not to mention some easy political point scoring – to be had by upping quality and, more importantly, up-take.

The Government's School Food Plan will also include fresh guidelines for teachers and governors to improve food culture in their schools including teachers being encouraged to eat with the children in the dining hall; having a stay-on-site rule for break and lunchtime; offering after-school cooking lessons for parents with their children; ensuring packed lunches are not more exciting than school lunches; and offering prizes and other incentives for bringing in a healthy packed lunch.

There is also set to be a £16 million cashpot from the Department for Education that organisations such as the Children's Food Trust can bid for a share of to help turn around schools that are struggling with their lunch service.

Education secretary Michael Gove said: "The School Food Plan is there to help – it emphasises the vital importance of making sure food is high quality and tasty and creating a culture in your school where everyone appreciates the importance of food.

"What I'd like to see is more children eating school lunches and fewer having packed lunches; more children feeling healthier and more energetic throughout the day."

While the introduction of free school meals to infants solves the cost issue to parents, it will not go away at junior school level. And it remains the biggest stumbling block.

Why pay when you can knock up a packed lunch for cheaper?

More Park Catholic Primary School in West Malling uses caterers Greenwich Service Solutions, which provides each meal at a cost of £2.25.

Head teacher Carol Smith said it is important for youngsters to have a hot meal, but can understand why some parents choose not to buy school dinners in favour of packed lunches.

"Cost is a big issue. But how do you provide a meal of that quality for less?

"We promote the school meals, but we are not knocking parents who can't afford it.

"We know that for some of our children they are fed very well, but with the best will in the world that is not the same across the board.

"In schools today we do pick up a lot of social issues which may not have been noticed in the past.

"So school meals can offer fruit and vegetables and a hot meal when they might not get it at home."

KCC currently offers free school meals to children who attend a state-maintained school if their parents are under 19 and in full-time education or if they receive income support, jobseekers' allowance or if their household income is below £16,190 per annum.

Although those children never need to flag up their free meal status, there is much anecdotal evidence parents do not want their child to be labelled as 'poor' so opt for a packed lunch rather than revealing too much information about their family income.

Roger Gough believes although the dinners may cost more than a packed lunch, many parents should look at them as a viable, cost-effective option.

He said: "We have to be aware that if parents have a number of children school dinners will be a significant drain on the budget. It will make them think twice.

"But these meals are good value, they cost less than someone might pay for a cup of coffee from a high street shop – which people don't think twice about."

Mr Gough also says the caterers contracted within the Kent framework are not being promoted just to make a profit.

He explained: "The caterers get paid on a per child basis, so I imagine there will be some benefits to them in terms of economies of scale to get more people involved.

"But our biggest provider – Greenwich Service Solutions – is a not-for-profit company.

"In terms of increasing numbers having meals there would, of course, be some benefits in spreading the cost



TINY TREATS: KCC's Roger Gough (below) took part in a nationwide campaign to highlight new school meals





of production over more people, but for us the main aim is to ensure there is as much possible take-up for the benefit of children in Kent schools."

Hadlow Rural Community School, near Tonbridge, is another which has its own way of providing meals for its pupils.

The free school only opened its doors in September – a spin-off of the increasingly successful Hadlow College.

It has a strong rural ethos at its core, enhancing its determination for its food offering to be both nutrional and local.

Using ABM Catering, the school makes use of its own kitchens and ingredients grown by the college for its dinners.

Bosses at the school have also developed the concept of 'family dining' in ensuring pupils eat a healthy meal, while sitting with their peers and members of staff to make the daily meal central to the life of the school.

Resources and finance director at the college, Mark Lumsdon-Taylor, said: "Hadlow College is proud to have adopted a strategy 10 years ago regarding local sourcing and high-quality provision with our partners ABM catering.

"Our 'family dining' encourages social skills and conversation that some children don't always have the opportunity to experience at home."

The push for schools to use more seasonal and local foods in their meals is something national campaign charity School Food Matters has been championing in their 'Farm Gate to School Plate' scheme.

Head of the group, Stephanie Wood, is urging parents to get their children eating school dinners, saying the UK should be "aiming for a 70 per cent take-up mark".

She also urged schools to offer sibling discounts for larger families arguing that "the more kids that take up the school meals, the more the price will come down".

The charity says the UK now has the highest rate of obesity in Europe, with one in three children overweight or obese by Year Six – aged nine – and that obesity in children under 11 has risen by more than 40 per cent in 10 years. It remains convinced a healthier school meal can help to battle that statistic.

> **"These meals are good value, they're less than someone might pay for a cup of coffee from a high street shop – which people don't think twice about"**
>
> **Roger Gough,** KCC's member for education and health reform

More Park head teacher Carol Smith adds: "They really are of good quality now: there is a great choice, and they even have salad bars and jacket potatoes to back it up if a child doesn't fancy what's on offer.

"So there are healthy alternatives across the board... even the desserts are healthier. It's not how things used to be."

With the proposed School Food Plan set to start in September 2014, there are few in the county who are against the idea of a hot, healthy meal for five to seven-year-olds.

Although critics of the scale of the Coalition's spending say there remains insufficient evidence a meal delivers academic success.

Meanwhile, the Government says it will "investigate the case for extending free school meals entitlement" in the future should it be a success.

Cllr Gough says the free school meal roll-out is keenly anticipated.

"It will be for the Key Stage 1 group to start with. How it will be done and how it will be funded is going to be released before Christmas," he said.

"There clearly are some considerable benefits to school meals, to the school as a whole and the pupils who engage in it.

"One could always argue that providing something which was very much on a needs basis in the past, but on a universal basis now, and at a time when spending is pretty tight, could create room for argument. But we are reasonably sympathetic to it."

Whole School Meals' Stephanie Hayman believes the School Food Plan is "vitally important" and hopes it will instill the significance of school meals into parents so they continue to take up the option once their children get older.

The Department for Education says it will test and introduce a set of revised food-based standards for all maintained schools, academies and free schools to adhere to by September 2014.

A spokesman said: "Ofsted will amend its guidance to inspectors to consider behaviour and culture in the dining hall and the way a school promotes healthy lifestyles.

"We will be ensuring cooking is in the curriculum for all children up to the age of 14. The new curriculum will emphasise the importance of cooking nutritious dishes, understanding where food comes from and taking pleasure in the creative arts of the kitchen."

Another campaign group on the quest to improve food in and around schools is the Children's Food Trust. It is calling on schools in Kent to help it rate the state of kitchen facilities.

The scheme is aimed at gathering a comprehensive picture of kitchen infrastructure in the county's schools to make sure it is in shape to deliver on the aims of the School Food Plan.

Currently, more than 100 primary schools in Kent don't have kitchen facilities.

The trust estimates, nationally, only 73 per cent of primary schools have full production kitchens meaning the others have only facilities for cold food or have to have hot food transported in.

The trust says more children tend to eat school meals in areas where the kitchen facilities can offer freshly-cooked food.

Chairman and chef, Rob Rees, said: "We've worked with lots of schools over the years where catering teams are coping with kitchen facilities that aren't up to the job because of their age, their size, their layout or their equipment – costing schools when it comes to time and fuel.

"These fantastic teams are always determined their facilities won't compromise the meals on children's plates.

"They make do and get on with the job, because replacing kitchens and their equipment can feel like a complicated, expensive business.

"But good kitchens are a vital part of a thriving school meals service.

"The School Food Plan has thrown down the gauntlet for taking school meals to the next level.

"But if we want every child to have a great meal at school, we need to help schools get their kitchens right – and that starts with knowing how many kitchens are in serious need of some tender loving care."

HOW JAMIE STIRRED THINGS UP IN THE SCHOOL KITCHENS

WHEN Jamie Oliver set out to film a four-episode series for Channel 4 in 2005 about the state of food in our schools, he can't have imagined the ripples he surfed were about to become a tsunami which would change school dinners forever.

Jamie's School Dinners used his popularity to highlight a decline in quality and nutrional value of what we were feeding our children.

Rather than balanced foods, it was all turkey twizzlers, deep-fried foods, burger and chips.

In short, not healthy and playing a key role in creating the obesity epidemic which was generating such concerns.

The programme highlighted catering firms were expected to feed children for under 37p each and that something had to change.

It also included shocking scenes of parents delivering chips and burgers through school fences when the school at the focus of the programme dropped junk food from the menu.

Headlines, a petition signed by more than 271,600 people and the support of then-prime minister Tony Blair saw the weight of the Government brought to bear.

New government guidelines included fried foods only to be served twice a week, while many schools no longer offer fizzy drinks.

There was a groundswell of pressure from parents and grandparents and the tide finally started to turn.

The Department for Education and Skills then created the School Food Trust, a £60 million initiative providing support and advice to school administrators to improve the standard of school meals.



Dr George Conyne is a lecturer in history at the University of Kent. Born and raised in the United States, he specialises in American political history. Here, in a special article for KoS, he looks back at the remarkable impact of John F Kennedy – the American president whose assassination 50 years ago continues to reverberate through history and its impact on the once all-powerful Kennedy clan…



FATEFUL DAY: President John F Kennedy sitting next to his wife Jacqueline just moments before his assassination

Memories fade but Kennedy's legacy endures

When John Kennedy was assassinated there was an immediate period of shock and mourning that lasted at least five years.

Any writing that started from any premise other than the assumption of Kennedy's greatness, simply did not get published as the public stood behind the family.

The murder of his brother, Robert Kennedy, in June 1968 only deepened the reverence for the family name.

But it was the decision by JFK's widow, Jacqueline Kennedy, to marry the Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis in October 1968 which brought this period to a swift end.

The country could not understand why the grieving widow should take a second husband and how she could take an elderly foreigner of dubious business reputation.

It seemed a betrayal. She was the 'Young Widow' – that was now her role. This was the first blow to the Kennedy name.

The second came suddenly and apparently from nowhere.

Nine months after the wedding, Senator Edward Kennedy, on whom the family's hopes were now centred, announced he had driven a car off a bridge in Chappaquiddick, Massachusetts; a playground resort area.

A young staffer, Mary Jo Kopechne, had drowned, although, he claimed, he had repeatedly dived into the water to try and save her.

But, somehow, he did not manage to report this to the local police until the following day.

The girl's grieving family, Kennedy supporters all, offered no complaint and the coroner quietly ruled it an accident.

But questions lingered. Why the delay in reporting? What was his real relationship with the girl?

An assumption led to the question, "how drunk was he?".

But regardless of what happened that night, one point was clear; Kennedy was not going to run for the presidency in 1972, and possibly never run with this stain on his character.

Between Jacqueline Kennedy's marriage and Edward Kennedy's problem that night, the power and mystique of the Kennedy name America had felt before 1969 was gone.

But there was still a legacy.

Edward Kennedy continued building a strong and admirable record of legislative achievement in the United States Senate.

Onassis' death resulted in Jacqueline returning to New York City where she worked successfully, but quietly, in publishing.

But the name still attracted attention. Every head still turned when she walked into a restaurant.

A congressional committee investigated JFK's assassination all over again and concluded in 1978 there was ample evidence of a conspiracy, but admitted the details remained elusive.

Edward Kennedy decided to challenge the unpopular incumbent, Jimmy Carter, for the presidency in 1980, but again found that he was his own worst enemy.

This time it was because he could not explain why he wanted to be president. The public came to the conclusion he laboured under a sense of entitlement. That would have worked in 1965, but in 1980 it was no longer judged appropriate.

And then there were the scandals.

Among others, allegations that President John Kennedy had a mistress and that she was connected to the Mafia, arose.

An affair with actress Marilyn Monroe, who had sung a highly charged 'Happy Birthday Mr President' at a gala in May of 1962, was also alleged.

Robert's son David died of a cocaine overdose in 1978, and Edward's nephew William Kennedy Smith was tried on an accusation of rape at the family's Florida home in 1991.

He was found not guilty, but the trial painted a picture of life at the home which was tawdry and sexually libertine. The publicity was so bad Edward had to give a speech admitting a failure of moral leadership.

There were accidents, too.

In 1997, Michael, another of Robert's children, died in a Colorado skiing accident and two years later, President Kennedy's only son, John Jr, was killed with his wife when the airplane he was piloting crashed into the sea.

The list is so long it is often called 'the Kennedy curse' and includes at least 20 sad or tragic episodes since 1941.

But in the last year, the election of Robert's grandson, Joseph III, to the US House of Representatives for the first time and President Obama's decision to send the assassinated President's daughter, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, to serve as ambassador to Japan suggest that there are still Kennedys who have found public or presidential favour in their ambition to be of public service.

So, while the elements of 'the curse' suggest the legacy is tainted, these two suggest the family still has popularity.

The name still gets immediate attention and recognition – a great advantage for a young politician to have.

The handsome new congressman got more votes in his district than President Obama did and so seems to have the pizzazz associated with his family.

Other family members make films, help run the Paralympics, comment on the news, develop alternative energy sources and follow numerous philanthropic pursuits.

So the legacy continues, less evocative and powerful than a couple of decades ago, but still capable of having an effect that assists their aspirations.

Although the population that can recall where they were when they heard the news 50 years ago that President JFK had been shot gets smaller and smaller, the name still carries weight, and anyone who thinks the family will fade away into obscurity is not watching closely or is a victim of a large dose of wishful thinking.

One of President Kennedy's favourite words was 'vigour', which he pronounced "vi-gah". The family still has plenty of it and plenty of the money it has had for four generations.

The legacy is still very strong and I, for one, expect new chapters are just being opened, 50 years after that assassin's horrific act.

> **"The handsome new congressman got more votes in his district than President Obama and so seems to have the pizzazz associated with his family"**
>
> **Dr Conyne,** on Joseph Kennedy's making House of Representatives

Established 1981

SupaGlazing Limited

Over 53,000 customers!

Introducing the...

Supa Diamond

A rated, **ANY** size, **ANY** number of openers, White UPVC

DOUBLE GLAZED

4 WINDOWS **£1,440.00** inc VAT

5 WINDOWS **£1,800.00** inc VAT

6 WINDOWS **£2,160.00** inc VAT

7 WINDOWS **£2,520.00** inc VAT

TRIPLE GLAZED

4 WINDOWS **£1,800.00** inc VAT

5 WINDOWS **£2,250.00** inc VAT

6 WINDOWS **£2,700.00** inc VAT

7 WINDOWS **£3,150.00** inc VAT

All inclusive of fitting, survey, guarantee & includes Pilkington Energikare saving glass. Did you know triple glazing only saves an extra 0.5% on average which is about £3 per year.

The choice is yours!



A Rated Windows

Pilkington **Optiwhite**™ (outer pane)

Argon gas filling with warm edge spacer

Pilkington **K Glass**™ **OW** (inner pane)

A Rated Windows

Our Sale Now On!

...Kent's leading double glazing manufacturer



20% OFF ALL Conservatories & Orangeries

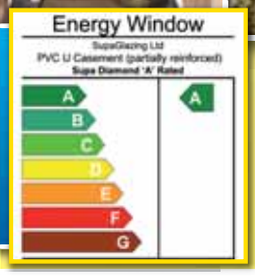
Celebrating over 32 years of beautiful windows... Guaranteed

Finance available subject to status, written quotations available on request.









Don't just glaze it, Supaglaze it!

All of our installers are CRB checked.

Hurry! Offers end 3rd December

Knight Road, Strood (opposite Morrisons)

01634 294 696

Open 6 days a week
Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm

2 Roman Square, Sittingbourne
13 Lowfield Street, Dartford

01795 422 877
01322 290 525

AS HEARD ON heart 103.1 102.8

MasterCard VISA FENSA REGISTERED COMPANY

Profile: BS7950 BS7413
Door Lock: BS3621
Toughened Glass: BSEN12150-1

Factory awarded British Safety Council Safety Award: Every Year Since 1984

Head office and factories at Deacon Trading Centre, Knight Road, Strood.

www.supaglazing.com

International Safety Awards 2011 WINNER

53411

Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes Benz Van Service Contracts

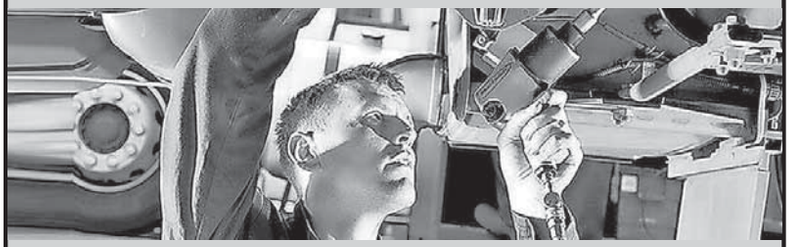
Less Uncertainty, Cost and Hassle. More Flexibility, Service and Care.

We know it's important for you to be able to plan financially - and that unexpected servicing and repair costs are something you'd rather do without.

Mercedes-Benz Commercial Vehicles is helping to make the lives of its customers easier this year; ensuring they're protected against the rising cost of vehicle maintenance.

With a Mercedes-Benz Service Contract, customers are left with peace of mind in the knowledge their vehicle is being maintained to the highest standards, by qualified technicians using Mercedes-Benz GenuineParts – all at an affordable rate.

With a Service Contract the upkeep of your vehicle is now one less thing to worry about.



So, what does a complete care service package cover?

Routine service labour costs	■
Routine service parts	■
Routine service lubricants	■
Front and rear brake pads	■
Front and rear brake discs (including brake cleaner)	■
Fly wheel	■
Clutch friction material	■
Release bearings	■
Worn centre plate	■
Wiper blade if required during maintenance service	■
MOT test fees (vehicles under 3.5 tonnes or plated to under 3.5 tonnes)	■
Transferable to new owner when vehicle sold (if Plan paid for upfront)	■
Repair or replacement of engine	■
Repair or replacement of gear box	■
Repair or replacement of rear axle	■
Repair or replacement of all other mechanical componants	■
Repair or replacement of computing management system	■
Repair or replacement of all other electrical components	■
Emergency road side assistance	■△
Recovery to nearest Mercedes-Benz authorised repairer	■△
Extension to contract life available	■
Fast track preferential authorisation and processing	■
Monthly paid contract	■
Prepaid contract	
Provision of replacement vehicle	+□
Tyres	□
Refrigeration units	□
UK & Continental cover	□
Ministry inspections (vehicles over 3.5 tonnes)	■
Available on any vehicle age	■

■ Standard cover
□ Optional cover
△ Covered for first 3 years under vehicle warranty

Call us today and ask for either Tracy Pearson or Peter Ollive to find out more……..

www.sparshatts.co.uk
0844 396 1122
www.sparshatts.co.uk

Ashford Dartford Sittingbourne Tonbridge

They can swallow £300 in a minute and have been described as the 'crack-cocaine of gambling'. Now there are rising fears so-called 'fixed odds betting terminals' are beginning to destroy lives and communities. **Chris Murphy** reports.

THEY are tempting; colourful flashing lights luring in the player with the promise of easy cash and fast profits.

What's more, they are invading our high streets at a remarkable pace and, critics say, exploiting the vulnerable in these difficult times; costing them their families, friends and careers.

Welcome to the worrying world of fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs) – playing now at a bookmakers near you.

A new breed of the old fashioned fruit machines, normally revolving around the spin of a virtual roulette wheel, they benefit from changes in laws to give big, instant, prizes and for punters to make big investments.

Each establishment can house up to four of these machines, each offering the chance to win an instant £500.

But, as ever with the gambling industry, the chances of losing outweigh that of winning.

What is more, each gamble with these machines is over in just 20 seconds. Which means they could swallow up £300 in a single minute – four times faster than if you were gambling in a casino.

Yet people are using them in droves; seen as providing an option to make a quick buck and all the classic addictive symptoms which come with it. There is evidence some turn to petty crime to feed their addiction. Some run out of credit, even at payday loan shops, and see the machines as a last-ditch cure to their financial woes.

Vince Maple is the leader of the Labour group on Medway Council. His party have been growing increasingly, and more vocally, concerned about the rise in these machines in town centres – particularly in Medway which suffers from pockets of deprivation.

He explained: "Firstly let me be clear; I am not anti-gambling, but I am anti-problem gambling and the issues I see in Medway with the number of fixed odds betting terminals are many.

"These machines can take £100 every 20 seconds. This speed and size of bet has led to many people referring to them as the crack-cocaine of gambling.

"We have had some initial positive conversations with the gaming industry in Medway and I would welcome any initiatives locally that would help Medway's problem gamblers, but I think this alone will simply not be enough.

"We need to see changes at a national level, to at least reducing the maximum bet from £100 to £2, with a longer period between each bet, moving away from having that casino-like environment in our town centres.

"I have heard too many examples where these machines have led to the loss of jobs, relationship break-ups and in the very worst examples criminal activity. It is time to see responsibility taken and safeguards put in place."

The machines first appeared in 1999, created after then-Chancellor Gordon Brown scrapped tax on bets in favour of taxing bookmakers' profits.

Liverpool City Council has banned them, and Medway is understood to be looking at similar action.

Prime Minister David Cameron said it was "worth having a proper look at the issue" while not over-regulating the industry.

He added: "But, on the other hand, a fair approach and a decent approach that prevents problem gambling."

Helen Grant, the MP for Maidstone and the Weald, has found herself on the front line after taking over as sports and culture minister.

She conceded they are a "serious issue".

But an opportunity to introduce steps to lessen their impact – such as reducing the speed at which money can be pumped in and the size of the prizes on offer – was not taken up.

Labour MP Tom Watson also claims they are a magnet for money laundering on a huge scale.

Faversham and Mid-Kent MP, Hugh Robertson, was responsible for the Government review of the machines before moving jobs in the most recent Cabinet reshuffle.

He said: "This is one of those quite tricky areas where commonsense suggests it is a major problem, but there is a lack of evidence to back that up."

The Department for Culture Media and Sport said it would take notice of the eventual findings of a separate investigation by the Responsible Gambling Trust, which is currently looking at the potential harm they may cause and will report some time next year.

Helen Grant said: "The Government is pleased to introduce a package that supports the gambling sector, but is very clear that growth cannot be pursued at any cost.

"Our response acknowledges gambling's contribution to the economy, but balances this with explicit recognition of the need to protect players, particularly at the higher end stakes."

Critics will argue action speaks louder than words.

Jasper Gerard is the Liberal Democrat parliamentary campaigner for Maidstone and will go head-to-head with Mrs Grant in the next general election.

He is increasingly worried about the impact of these machines.

"If, like me, a few of your rainy teenage weekends were spent taking refuge in the arcades of Margate, you tend to think of slot machines as fairly innocent, even bygone, pleasures," he said.

"My gambling career came to a halt aged 15 when a friend and I lost all our pocket money – including bus fares – in one such seaside escapade and had to walk home 15 miles. Never again.

"But fixed odds machines are not so innocent. Lots of poor people are losing lots of money, and it's ruining lives.

"A colleague asked me who would possibly gamble £100 at odds of 5-1 when they don't have enough money to start with?

"The answer is the desperate. In Maidstone and the Weald a staggering £55 million has been wagered on these roulette machines with nine shops having gained licences.

"And these are not happy places. Staff report the sullen silence of players can turn to violence when they lose. Workers are often required to man these places alone and some say they are 'terrified'.

"One member of staff told me he saw a young man walk in with his dole money, lose it all on a FOBT machine which he then kicked and tried to tip over, and then left to go to a payday loan shop.

"Many are so mesmerised in front of the ma-

> **"One member of staff told me he saw a young man walk in with his dole money, lose it all on a FOBT machine which he then kicked and tried to tip over, and then left to go to a payday loan shop"**
>
> **Jasper Gerard,** Liberal Democrat parliamentary campaigner for Maidstone

Fears of gambling addiction gripping our high streets



chine that they become incapable of speech. They only move to make another journey to the cash-point. It is spiralling out of control.

"As a liberal, I instinctively recoil from banning anything. But if punters could only bet £2 a spin rather than £100, they would have more time to realise the odds they are working against.

"The odds also need to be spelt out; do punters realise that their chances of winning are even lower than in a casino?

"Gambling promises an easy way out of human misery. Tragically, it almost always spins its victims further into a vortex of poverty."

The Association of British Bookmakers (ABB) represents those bookmakers that are now making almost half their profits from these machines.

The Gambling Commission said last year gross profit from the terminals was a withering £1.4 billion from the 33,200 UK machines. Profit per machine is put at around £825 per week.

The ABB steadfastly says the problems are over-exaggerated, and if the machines were banned, 40,000 jobs would be lost as 8,000 establishments close down.

They say there is no direct evidence they cause a gambling addiction.

A spokesman for the organisation said: "A reduction in stakes and prizes would have little, if any, impact on the level of problem gambling.

"A player-centred approach that focuses on providing customers with the self-help tools they need to avoid excessive or irresponsible gambling, better education and clearer guidance are just some of the measures that the ABB will be focused on in the coming months."

A spokesman for the Campaign for Fairer Gaming, however, thinks otherwise.

They said: "Gambling regulation should not be designed to protect the gambling sector operators, the politicians that approved it, or the regulators that should enforce it.

PAGE 20 »

Haguelands VILLAGE



Order your Christmas hamper now

Hand-picked, individually themed hampers make the unique Christmas gift

Treat friends, family or yourself to a traditional willow hamper brimming with the finest award winning goodies

FROM ONLY £25

Sourced from local producers, farms, vineyards and dairies in Kent and beyond the Haguelands Hamper makes the perfect Christmas gift

Quote KL1 when ordering



Christmas trees to order

We stock Nordman Spruce non-drop Christmas trees that have been cultivated here in Kent

To find out more call **01303 874727** or pop into Haguelands Village, Burmarsh, Romney Marsh TN29 OJR alternatively visit **www.haguelandsvillage.co.uk**

« PAGE 15

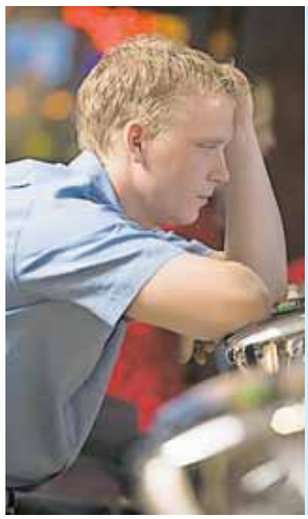
"The UK 2005 Gambling Act has many flaws, but the most significant relate to FOBTs. We want them stopped."

Derek Webb, founder of the group, said: "FOBTs have been a hidden problem for the last 10 years, but the scale of this is becoming more exposed.

"Betting shops are no longer about traditional sports betting; they are now driven by high speed, high stakes, addictive gaming machines that should have no place on the high street."

One victim is Matt Zarb-Cousin, a reformed problem gambler who now works on the Stop the FOBTs campaign.

He said: "For too long, local authorities have been powerless in stopping the spread of addictive gaming on the high street. I urge other councils to follow Liverpool's lead by sending a strong message to government – enough is enough."



WORRYING FACTS AND FIGURES

Constituency	Betting shop licenses	Number of FOBTs	Gross Amount Gambled
Ashford	10	37	£61,570,851
Canterbury	10	37	£61,570,851
Chatham and Aylesford	8	29	£49,256,681
Dartford	11	40	£67,727,936
Dover	8	29	£49,256,681
Faversham and Mid Kent	3	11	£18,471,255
Folkestone and Hythe	15	55	£92,356,276
Gillingham and Rainham	12	44	£73,885,021
Gravesham	11	40	£67,727,936
Maidstone and The Weald	9	33	£55,413,766
North Thanet	10	37	£61,570,851
Rochester and Strood	17	62	£104,670,446
Sevenoaks	8	29	£49,256,681
Sittingbourne and Sheppey	10	37	£61,570,851
South Thanet	12	44	£73,885,021
Tonbridge and Malling	8	29	£49,256,681
Tunbridge Wells	7	26	£43,099,596

All numbers estimated for 2012. Source – Campaign for Fairer Gambling.

Case study: Gambler bet on wheel of misfortune

TERRY from Rochester started on fruit machines from the age of eight, and was betting on horses by 20, but managed to keep it under control.

There was some overdraft and debt, but he felt on top of his vice.

That changed with the arrival of the FOBTs and a roulette simulator.

He said: "The compulsion is extraordinary; you can win thousands and lose thousands in a handful of minutes.

"If you win, it gives you such an overpowering sense of euphoria you are desperate to repeat the sensation; within hours, sometimes minutes.

"If you lose, you are soul-wrenchingly desperate to regain what you have lost. It is a constant, overwhelming sense of compulsion.

"I remember having my biggest ever win of £7,000 and collecting it behind the counter; more notes than I had pockets for.

"The next morning, I was back in there and lost all of it, plus another £1,000 of my wages.

"My hands were shaking as I fed all the notes in, hundreds at a time.

"The staff see exactly how much is spent behind the counter, but it is never questioned.

"I can imagine how people must feel reading this, understandably having little sympathy because they see gambling as an active choice, but there is little difference between this, alcoholism, drug addiction, overeating or anything along those lines; it consumes your personality to the point where you act and say things that you never ordinarily would."

He estimates spending £100,000 using wages, legal loans, begging from family and friends, but is now free from gambling.

He said: "It cost me two homes and my partner, as well as straining the friendships I had to breaking point.

"Five gamble-free years on and I am still trying to balance my finances, but I consider myself lucky because I came through the other side.

"I wish I was an extreme case, but to be honest, my story is relatively tame compared to many others.

"I don't blame the bookmakers.

"Twelve years ago, they were dying out, the next generation had no more than a passing interest in horse racing and certainly not enough to support a whole industry.

"FOBTs changed everything and created a multibillion-pound industry, which is why the number of them has quadrupled in recent years.

"But the machines prey on the vulnerable and the needy – there is no restrictions, no monitoring."

With burglaries at their peak during the festive period, don't be a victim this Christmas...

Fully installed & monitored intruder alarm system, including 2 detectors & 2 door contacts, payable over 3 months at just £250 inc vat per month*!



Only 50 systems available on this offer – call today to secure yours!

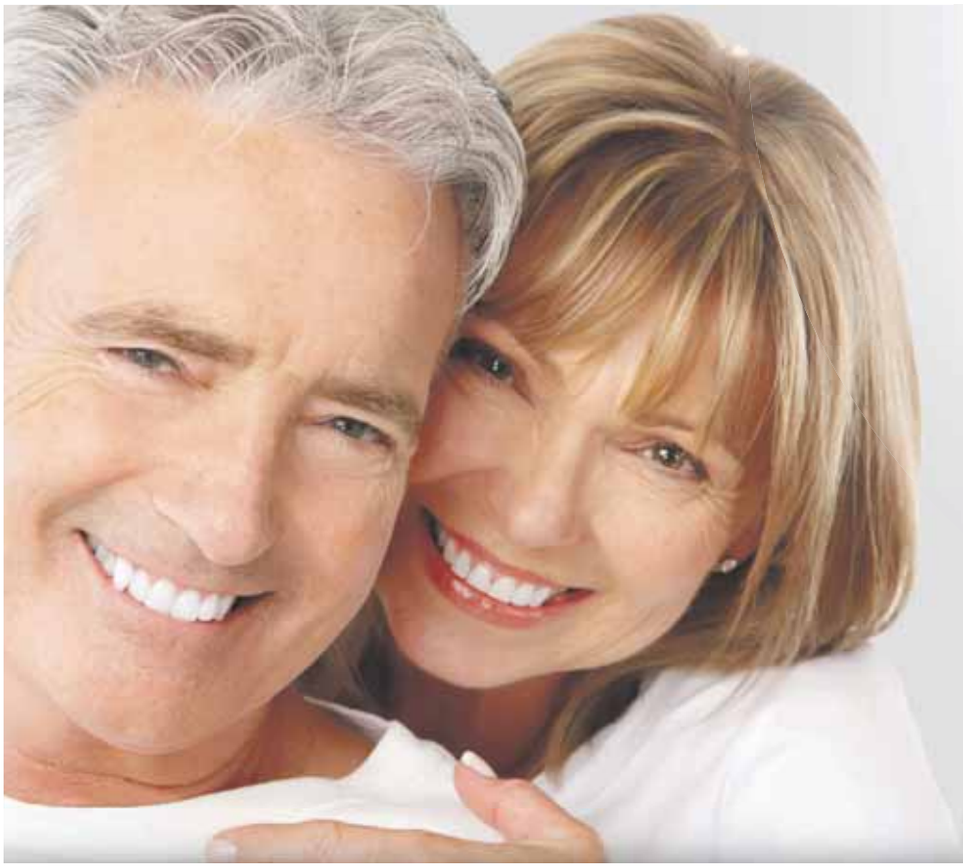
HOWFIELD RESPONSE 01227 458999

*Subject to a 5 year monitoring & maintenance contract at £15 inc vat per month

Intruder alarms ✓ CCTV ✓ Fire alarm & equipment ✓ Key holding ✓ Safes ✓ Access control ✓ Key cutting & locksmiths

3 Simmonds Road ✓ Wincheap ✓ Canterbury ✓ CT1 3RA ✓ 01227 458999 ✓ www.howfield.com


Everything you need
to put on the
perfect
Christmas.
20%off
artificial
trees*
Book your
Santa's
Grotto
ticket online
Discover all the magic of the festive season in-store,
as Christmas takes centre stage at Dobbies.
Garden Centre | Festive Events | Restaurant | Home Delivery | Gift Wrapping | Free Parking
Dobbies Garden World | Courteney Road | Gillingham | ME8 0FB | Tel: 01634 224 630
Dobbies Garden World | Rutherford Road | Eureka Leisure Park | Ashford
Kent | TN25 4BN | Tel: 01233 619 360
www.dobbies.com
Stock varies from store to store and is subject to availability while stocks last.
*Offer ends 24th November.
Dobbies
GARDEN WORLD



TDC Implant Centres

www.smileinaday.co.uk

The ultimate alternative to dentures

No more loose, missing or false teeth - because now there's **Smile-In-A-Day!**

Award Winning Dental Implant Treatment

If you've lost confidence because of dentures, or loose or missing teeth, the advanced Smile In A Day technique from TDC is the answer.

We'll give you a natural smile with smooth, even teeth using a method that takes less time and causes less pain and discomfort than conventional treatment. We don't use dentures, plates, crowns or caps. Instead, we employ a technologically-advanced technique which provides a permanent solution so you can talk, smile, laugh and eat with absolute confidence.

How can we give you all this in just one day? Because our General Dental Council registered specialists* use a pioneering system that is both tried and tested. And because we've refined our skills to become as efficient as possible.

Call today to see how Smile In A Day can give you all this:

- A permanent, natural smile
- The ability to enjoy food again
- Confidence when you meet people
- An end to shame and embarrassment
- Extremely high success rate
- Superior skill levels from registered specialists
- Full guarantee on all work
- Choice of easy payment options

Call today to arrange your **free, no obligation** consultation.

CALL FREE 0800 041 3011**

Visit our website for more information: www.smileinaday.co.uk

Before

Dentures or loose or missing teeth means lack of confidence, reluctance to smile, inability to eat properly and enjoy food.



After

Smile In A Day gives you back your confidence with a beaming, natural smile - and lets you eat and enjoy whatever you want.



TDC Harley Street Clinic
77 Harley Street, London W1G 8QN

TDC Folkestone Clinic
Suite 1, 92 Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2BE

TDC Peterborough Clinic
3rd Floor Market Chambers, Cathedral Square, Peterborough PE1 1XW

Read more testimonials from our happy customers on our website.



"Wow. Thank you so, so much. I love my new smile."

Sally Ann, Smile In A Day patient.

Let Smile In A Day bring back your smile.

*Our surgeons are all specialist Periodontists or Maxillofacial surgeons. **If you are not calling from a landline, call charges may apply.

American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry® ACCREDITED MEMBER



Nurse whose inspiration brings light as night falls

Marijke Cox meets one of the county's unsung heroes – Ann Robertson – the woman who founded the Pilgrims Hospice organisation which has helped thousands of people in the winter of their lives

ON A freezing February day in 1972, Ann Clayden stood in the car park of a north east Kent health clinic next to her Morris Minor with panic rising in her stomach.

It was the first day of her nursing career in the county – the latest stop on a tour which was taking her across England.

She'd trained in Leicester, served as a pupil midwife in Northampton and worked stints in Hertfordshire, Peterborough and Birmingham.

Now her career was taking her south.

Little did she know, however, that as she stood there nervously waiting to begin her first day in our county, she would be taking the first steps down a path which would lead her to create one of the most remarkable and treasured health facilities in the county.

Through her relentless drive, she would transform palliative care for seriously and terminally ill people and ensure those in need would get the support they, and their families, so desperately needed.

Six years after that cold, first day as a district midwife, her hospice plan was born.

And just four years after that, in 1982, the doors to the Pilgrims Hospice in Canterbury would open.

In 1991, another would launch in Margate and in 2001 in Ashford.

Pilgrims Hospice is today one of the most well-known and celebrated charities in the county.

What remains a far less well known story, however, is that of the woman behind it.

Now Ann Robertson, having remarried in 1979, and living in Tenterden, the 78-year-old admits she is very proud of what has been achieved.

She explains: "I'm also very humbled because I never dreamt it would take off in the way it has, but I think that was simply because of the sheer need."

It was two tragic cases which first ignited the fire in her belly to drive her and the hospice movement forward in Kent.

"I was a district nurse midwife in the Eastry Rural district, near Sandwich, and at that time there were no facilities for terminally ill patients," she remembers.

"For patients dying at home, there was no evening nursing service, there was no night nursing service.

"If you were trying to give pain control for people dying with cancer, for example, you had very limited resources.

"Patients were sent home to die and they would be at home supported by their families, but very dependent on us for pain control.

"But we just couldn't achieve it."

In her new book, From Womb to Tomb: Life as a District Nurse and Midwife in the 1970s/80s, she describes the two distressing cases which spurred her on.

"They were the catalyst," she told KoS.

"One was a 27-year-old lad whose father had died of bowel cancer two years previously.

"It gives the lie to the saying that lightning never strikes twice because two years later this lad got bowel cancer himself.

"They operated, but nothing could be done and so he was literally sent home to die.

"Unfortunately, it went on longer than any of us had thought and as each week went by he got increasingly worse.

"He was in pain, he looked like something out of a concentration camp, he couldn't do anything by himself, his mother was distraught, we were going in three times a day and it took two of us to try and handle him.

"I was so incensed, it was just horrific. It was one of the worst cases I think any of us had had to cope with and I could not accept it – there had to be another way."

Mrs Robertson had heard about the hospice movement and had gone to St Christopher's Hospice in London, to see it first hand.

At the time there were no such facilities in Kent with the nearest being in Worthing and the capital.

"I came away absolutely fired with enthusiasm, but I was just so angry this facility wasn't available to my

PAGE 20 »

Pictures: ADY KERRY



« PAGE 20

patients," she said. "I couldn't talk of anything else and eventually I got together a group of 18 people from all walks of life to see whether they thought it would be possible to achieve hospice facilities in this area."

A second tragic case during this time only went to strengthen her desire.

"It was a guy of 35," she recalls. "I had first come into contact with this family when his wife was expecting twins and I went in as the midwife. They'd already got a little girl.

"Her husband had been diagnosed with what they thought was Multiple Sclerosis (MS). He managed very well with a wheelchair and a disabled car and he ran his own business.

"But when the twins were two he had a fall and fractured his femur.

"He became quadriplegic with a facial palsy and difficulty in swallowing. They changed the diagnosis from MS to motor neurone disease. Again they sent him home.

"I cannot tell you...it was heart-wrenching.

"This guy couldn't scratch an itch, couldn't turn himself in bed, he couldn't reach for a drink so he was totally dependent on his wife who'd got three small children in tow and was already getting up to the children during the night and then having to get up to her husband as well.

"Eight times a night was nothing; she was shattered and we had nothing to offer."

But fundraising for the hospice – then known as the East Kent Hospice Project – was already under way and the seeds for the scheme sown.

"One of the committee was a social worker in Canterbury and I approached him to see whether there were any resources from social services that we could bring in to help and there weren't," she said.

So instead she spoke to a receptionist at the doctor's surgery to help get one or two people who could help the stricken family.

"They would come and sit with him at night so that his wife could get some sleep. I watched with interest that the wife taught these people what to do for her husband and they were brilliant."

From there sprung the start of a volunteering sitter service to fill the gap before the hospice was up and running.

"An appeal went out for volunteers and we had the most amazing response. A lot of them were recently retired nurses, but many had no experience at all.

"We set in place a training scheme in each of the major towns in east Kent and a district nurse offered to

"An appeal went out for volunteers and we had the most amazing response. A lot of them were recently retired nurses, but many had no experience at all"

Ann Robertson, remembers how the 'sitter' service began

FREE MICROCHIPPING
from Dogs Trust
Please visit us at:
Hawkinge Community Centre
Heron Forstal Avenue
Folkestone
CT18 7FP
Friday 29th November
11-4PM

The law is changing!
As from the 6th April 2016
you must have your
dog microchipped!

Comtact **0207 8370006** for more details or
visit **www.chipmydog.org.uk**



*Offer open to dog owners aged 18 or over regardless of benefit status, subject to availability and resources of the charity. Please note that Dogs Trust does not currently fund any other veterinary treatment. No appointment needed. We strongly advise that puppies being chipped are fully vaccinated beforehand. We reserve the right to ask for proof of vaccination. We cannot chip any other pets at this event. The Promoter: Dogs Trust, 17 Wakley Street, London, EC1V 7RQ. Registered Charity Numbers: 227523 and SCO37843.

DogsTrust

run each training course."

Mrs Robertson admitted that at the time, with two daughters and a full-time job, it was exhausting trying to set up a hospice.

"Somehow I managed to get married in the middle of it all," she laughed.

"We got married in 1979, and my husband got a job down here. He suddenly realised he hadn't got a wife who was home in the evening to get a meal because she was too busy going out, tearing around east Kent giving talks and trying to drum up support.

"He was amazingly supportive.

"About six months before the hospice opened in 1982, he said: 'Do you know, I'm going to get a sandwich board and walk the streets of Canterbury saying 'wife and one hospice to support'."

Funding was also difficult with, at the beginning, little help from the NHS.

"I'm not money orientated," she says, "I hate asking for money, I'm not interested in money as long as I have enough to keep a roof over my head.

"So I needed people with financial acumen and it was fortunate we had two guys that came to that first meeting who were chartered accountants and they took over responsibility for fundraising."

Health professionals at the time were wary of the hospice movement and were reluctant to hand over money for the project.

"A lot of the doctors and consultants saw what I was trying to do as a criticism of their care," she says.

"It wasn't; what I was trying to say was there was a better way of doing it because at that time palliative care wasn't what it should have been.

"Palliative won't cure, but it will envelope the patient in a way that would keep them comfortable and pain free.

"These doctors were very wary of morphine and heroin. They were worried the patient would get addicted whereas it can actually be managed, but you have to juggle the drugs to suit each individual patient dependent on what their requirement is.

"What works for one won't work for another."

Mrs Robertson said the hospice movement saw many changes introduced to palliative care.

"We were keeping the patient at home at that time and it was hard for their families as well as for them so I was looking for a way to try and make this end of life care more tolerable and better managed.

"That is what hospices managed to achieve and has since developed worldwide. But you must realise that in 1978, there were only about 38 hospices in the whole of this country."

In Kent, however, Pilgrims Hospice, a registered charity, was to become a leading provider of such care.

"We first opened with 20 beds in Canterbury – and the pressure on those beds was huge – but the last thing you want to do for a hospice is run a waiting list because patients don't have that sort of time," she said.

"We were covering an area from Faversham in the north to Tenterden and the Romney Marsh and across to Thanet.

"It was 720-square miles and we realised that a lot of people were disadvantaged by distance.

"We were also running a day centre and we had volunteer drivers who would fetch people and bring them in."

But the distance and pressure on the Canterbury hospice meant Mrs Robertson, who eventually retired from district nursing in 1989 due to medical reasons, wanted a new site elsewhere.

"It so happened that from being the bête noire of the local health authority, they began to appreciate just what an impact we were making.

"We were relieving pressure off acute beds and so they came to me and said would we build a hospice on a site in Thanet."

Building it was the easy bit, she admitted, it was the running costs which would prove difficult.

"But on the grounds that you don't look a gift horse in the mouth we said yes, and they gave us a site in the corner of what is the QEQM Hospital in Margate," she says.

"They gave us this site in 1990 and we opened in the end of 1991."

But just how many it would serve was the difficulty. Unknown to Mrs Robertson, the hospital in Margate had seven 'terminal' beds and when the hospice opened, the NHS closed these beds, meaning more pressure on the new service.

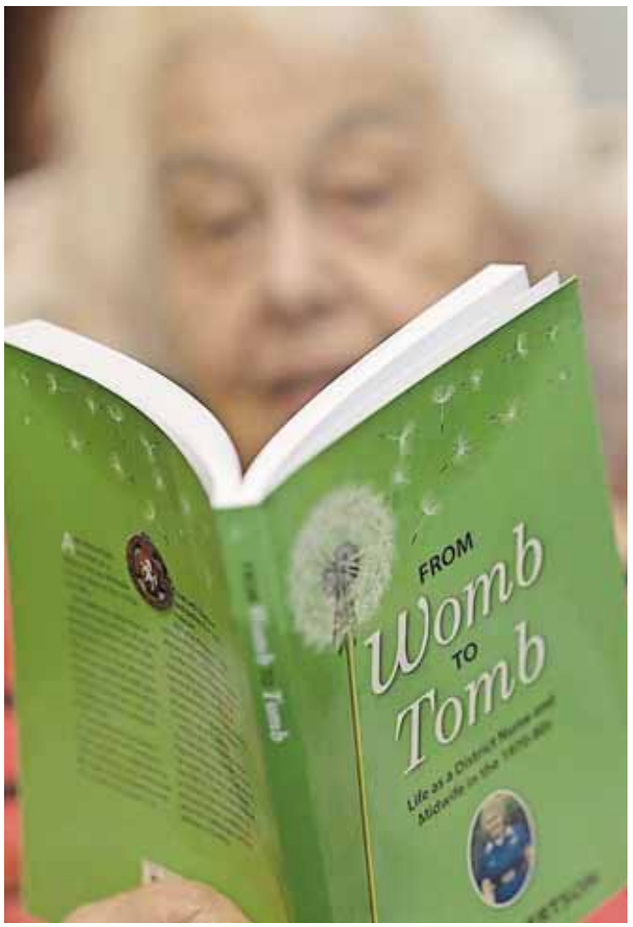
In the end, it opened with 10 beds with a further eight added within the first six months.

Mrs Robertson said at the time there were some pretty awful misconceptions about hospices.

"My husband overheard a lady saying to her friend that a hospice is 'one of those high-class places where you go to die'.

"Of course, that was the image that

PAGE 22 »



MEMORY: Mrs Robertson's book recounts the story behind the hospice



FRESH FISH GREAT PRICES

Since 1998, we have established a reputation for providing the finest quality fresh fish to commercial and private customers alike.

Our friendly team are passionate about what we do and offer exceptional levels of customer service, help and advice.

While we supply to over 160 restaurants, pubs, hotels and other catering establishments across Kent, we are also open to the public 5 days a week (Tuesday to Saturday), with ample free parking.

- Serving Private & Commercial Customers
- Over 200 Varieties of Fish Available
- Top Quality Fish Delivered Daily
- Free Home Delivery • Daily Clearance Specials
- Free Parking for upto 80 Cars

Haguelands Farm • Burmarsh Rd • Nr Dymchurch
Romney Marsh • Kent • TN29 0JR • 01303 874 125
www.romneyfishmarket@hotmail.co.uk

« PAGE 21

people originally had – that hospices equals death.

"We had to desperately try and get away from that, because it isn't, hospices are actually about living. It's about improving the quality of life for as long or short as that life may be.

"When we opened Margate we had a chap at Canterbury who had been coming to our day centre for six years and he was terminal.

"We were asked to take him; we were told he wouldn't last longer than a week. He wasn't eating, they couldn't get him to drink. Well, I'm not surprised he wasn't eating, because it turned out he had a very simple thrush infection in his mouth.

"Once we'd got on top of that he started to eat and drink.

"Okay, it was slop, we had to purée everything, but gradually within a week he was a lot better.

"One morning he saw the man in the next bed had a full English so he rang the bell and asked for the same.

"So he had a very small portion, and from then on this guy ate full English breakfasts every day and by the end of the fortnight he was deemed well enough to go home.

"He lived for another nine months and he died at home surrounded by his family.

"That's why we needed to get away from this awful thing that you go in there to die.

"The majority of our patients go home. There is a percentage that won't. There is a percentage of those that having gone home will perhaps need to come back again."



The hospices cost £10.5 million a year to run in total, with funding coming from a number of streams including the health authority, Pilgrims charity shops, donations in memoriam, a lottery and legacies.

Fundraising also brings in a large bulk of the crucial funds.

Mrs Robertson admitted it wasn't always easy and while the growth of the hospices is celebrated, it brings with it huge additional costs.

"Initially we received absolutely nothing from the health service.

"There's no doubt about it that the hospice movement was one of the success stories of the 20th century and the Government, in 1990, issued an order that health authorities were to contribute towards the funding of the hospices within their county.

"That again was a bit difficult because there were some health authorities which had only one hospice while there were others, like Kent, where there were now about four or five: the Wisdom at Rochester, Heart of Kent in Maidstone, the Lions in Gravesend.

"Then we'd got these two and Hospice in the Weald was on the way so it was a question of sharing the financial cake, but at least for the first time, in 1990, we had a contribution from the health authority."

Mrs Robertson said Pilgrims Hospice – which has a training centre named after her to train up health care assistants – started with just a small team, but has since grown massively.

"I never imaged it would be this big," she said.

Aside from the hospices, a 24-hour, 365-days-a-year home service is in the throes of being launched. It forms just another part of what has become an essential service to many.

Mrs Robertson said time is also devoted to those coping with bereavement after the loss of a loved one.

"It isn't only the patient; the stress on the family is huge, emotionally and physically.

"The whole of the hospice ethos is to recognise that we're treating a whole thing not just a part and also to follow up into the bereavement period beyond because that is quite a neglected area."

Stepping down as chairman in 2001, Mrs Robertson has since been made founder and life president.

She stresses that the charity needed new blood, but she's happy with her role as life president.

She added: "I go round to each of the hospices periodically. They're very kind; they keep this dotty old woman informed."

But Mrs Robertson said while she has taken more of a back seat since founding the charity, Pilgrims Hospice will remain as important as ever in the future.

"This care will always be needed," she said.

"Whereas there's no doubt cancer was the scourge of the 20th century, the scourge of this century is going to be Alzheimer's and dementia.

"We're beginning to get on top of many of the cancers; the longevity rate is greatly improved.

"But dementia is going to drain this country. You know that, unlike cancer, there's only one way it will go. There is no upside to dementia."

But she stressed that with hospices famed for their care, they can make things more comfortable for those in need.

"I've been very privileged to have been a part of all this."

Mrs Robertson, who was awarded an OBE in 1999, is modest about her contribution to Kent, but her drive, no-nonsense stance and desire to improve services marked a major shift in care which she no doubt go down in history.



Leeds Castle presents

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Come and see the magnificent decorated castle rooms from 7 to 24 December.

The Christmas Market – 7 to 22 December

A wonderful Christmas Market with German market style chalets and traditional carousel rides*.

Meet Father Christmas' reindeer everyday and treat your children to a ride on our wintery husky sleighs on 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 to 24 December.*

Late night shopping until 9pm on 12, 13, 19 and 20 December.

For a limited time only you can experience the market and the stunning grounds for just £7 if you do not already have a Key to the Castle ticket.

There is so much to discover at Leeds Castle this Christmas

For further information visit leeds-castle.com

LEEDS CASTLE KENT ENGLAND

*small additional charge will apply for rides.

The Lighthouse Inn Folkestone



XMAS DAY AT THE LIGHTHOUSE INN

£55 PER HEAD

Children Under 10 eat FREE!! (2 per family)

TWO SEATINGS 12 - 3pm and 3.30 - 6.30pm

Book early to avoid disappointment !

Carols and mince pies around the piano with our resident pianist john, crackers and party hats!

The Lighthouse Inn Xmas Lunch

£19.50 per head throughout December

Tues to Sunday 12-4pm

Bookings only

Party Hats and Crackers

Carols and Mince Pies around the piano with our resident pianist John





The Lighthouse Inn Christmas Party Nights!

FRIDAY December 6th and 20th

SATURDAY December 14th

Super Sounds Disco, Party Hats, Crackers and Glass of Bubbly!

£24.50 per person for parties between 10-20

£22.50 for parties between 20-75

Non Disco Dates also available.

Opening Hours: Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 12-3pm / 5:30-10:30pm
Wednesday: 12-3pm / 5:30-10:30pm
Thursday: 12-3pm / 5:30-10:30pm
Friday: 12-3pm / 5:30-10:30pm
Saturday: 12am-11pm • Sunday: 12pm - 6pm

111 Old Dover Road, Capel-Le-Ferne
Folkestone, KENT, CT18 7HT

01303 254080

Better healthcare starts with you

Steve Inett is chief executive of the new Healthwatch Kent, an independent organisation aiming to give patients a voice. Here, he calls on the public's support in helping it become a platform for improvement.



IF WE want our health and social care services to improve, then we need to shout about our experiences, good and bad.

How else will those that deliver, and ultimately pay for, these services in Kent know what needs to be kept and what needs to change?

Healthwatch Kent is a new organisation that can help people to do just that.

We want to hear the views and experiences of the county's residents.

We are then able to take the information directly to the people who commission our health and social care services in the county.

Together we can make a huge difference to our healthcare.

We are going to be out and about listening to people and organisations from around the county on what they value about the services they receive and what they feel needs to be improved.

Healthwatch Kent will collate the information and present our evidence to the people who commission and develop our health and social care services. We can ensure they take account of, and listen to, public opinion.

But that's only going to work if you talk to us and tell us what you think.

For example, take the recent news that Faversham minor injuries unit is to close.

We are looking to work with Canterbury and Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group, which took that decision, to ensure the people of Faversham and the surrounding area continue to receive the care they require and to ensure they are listening to public opinion.

We want to know what you think about it too and how the closure affects you.

It's not all about focusing on the negative though.

When we see good work going on (and there are many excellent services in Kent) we are quick to highlight it and encourage other health and social care organisations to learn from it.

For example, we are working with the Kent Community Health Trust to help them recruit members of the public to their committee to ensure they understand what the public wants. We have also worked with West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group to help them involve the public in their plans for the future.

Equally important to us is our free information and signposting service which helps anybody who is trying to understand what services are available to them.

You can ring our team of experts anytime and they will help you to navigate the complicated health and social care system.

Recently we had a call from a gentleman who was struggling to find an NHS dentist which had a winch to lift him from his wheelchair into the dentist chair. Our team found one near to his home and helped him to make an appointment.

This is a free service, so please do make use of it.

At the moment Healthwatch Kent is still new and we need more hands on deck to make our ambitions a reality. That is why we're busy looking for people to volunteer their time and expertise to help us in a number of ways.

For example, we need people to represent us at health and social care meetings; we need people who are willing to spread the Healthwatch word in their communities; we need people who have the skill to read, digest and analyse information.

Our list is long, but if you would be interested in working with us we are recruiting now so do get in touch.

We have been holding a series of events across the county for people who want to learn more.

For more information or to contact Healthwatch Kent visit www.healthwatchkent.co.uk or call on 0808 800 0102 or email info@healthwatch-kent.co.uk

TOWN HALL PLACE
CRAYFORD

LIVE IN A CRAYFORD ICON

A collection of fifteen one and two bedroom conversion apartments set within the iconic former Crayford Town Hall

- Elegant Edwardian-style period building
- High-end contemporary specification
- Less than 500 metres from Crayford town centre and rail station
- London Bridge by train in 30 minutes
- Allocated parking

HELP TO BUY AVAILABLE





LAST APARTMENT REMAINING



Marketing suite and show homes open daily 10am to 5pm
020 8498 6009
townhallplace@higginshomes.co.uk

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT AT £172,500

Help to Buy

Higgins HOMES
www.higginshomes.co.uk

Visit Morris & Turner
for our exceptional knowledge, honest & reliable service as well as offering great value for money!





Buy display stock at Dockside - Just in time for Christmas!

morris&turner
Outlet Centre at Dockside is EXPANDING!
9,000 sq ft showroom COMING SOON!

Clara Marble Fireplace Surround
ONLY £350 to clear
(fire not included)



Rochester
Only £599
Includes Fire!



Linmere
Only £499
Includes Fire!



Visit our showrooms or enquire TODAY!

morris&turner
BATHROOM AND FIREPLACE WAREHOUSE

4 Third Avenue, Chatham, Kent ME5 0AD
T: 01634 813813 | E: sales@morrisandturner.co.uk
www.morrisandturner.co.uk

Chatham Branch Opening Hours: 08:30 - 17:00 Monday - Friday
09:00- 17:00 Saturday | Sunday - Sorry Closed

Outlet Branch at Dockside Outlet, Chatham ME4 3ED (01634) 891524
Opening Hours: 10:00 - 18:00 Monday - Wednesday | 10:00 - 19:00
Thursday - Friday 10:00- 18:00 Saturday | 11:00 - 17:00 Sunday

50 years on and tunnels prepare to let drivers go with the free flow

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Dartford Tunnel celebrated its 50th anniversary in rather muted fashion this week.

Rather than bunting and birthday cake, the west bore – the first tunnel at the famous crossing point to take cars from Kent to Essex under the Thames – simply found itself getting down to the daily grind; thus, thousands travelled through it – and paid for the privilege.

Next October, however, it will undergo one of the biggest transformations in its history.

Because after years of toll booths, they will be demolished and replaced with 'free-flowing' tolls.

But what, exactly, can the motorist expect to encounter? The truth is they may not encounter much except, of course, for the amost inevitable traffic jams. But it is hoped they too will be alleviated.

A multimillion-pound contract was awarded recently to French company Sanef – a firm no stranger to the British holidaymaker as it already operates France's successful motorway toll roads.

While it is remaining tight-lipped about exactly how it will deploy its new system on the pinch point of the M25, we do know a certain amount.

Physically, drivers will see the present fanning out/fanning in of vehicles as they drive up to and leave the toll booths.

It will just be a single, continual four-lane approach in Kent, just as it is on the Essex side.

But a nest of overhead gantries will be in place fixed with a multitude of cameras all eager to get a good shot of your number plate as you approach, and move away, so toll dodgers can't 'hug' the bumper of the vehicle in front to shield their plate from the lens.

Details are still being ironed out, but the Highways Agency said motorists will be able to pay whatever the fee happens to be using all the usual hi-tech ways currently available for something like, say, the London congestion charge.

This will be by buying a 'season' pass or paying daily using text, phone, online or possibly even in person at some shops.

Sanef's deal is worth £360 million over seven years, with an option to extend it by a further three years.

Last month, its chief executive, Francois Gauthey, did say they were "keen to work with the Highways Agency to deliver these vital improvements at the Dartford Crossing and help ease the pain for the drivers who are justifiably frustrated with the congestion".

No-one, you will notice, is saying queues will be forever banished, but the regular snarl-ups caused at the booths will be, at least, lessened.

A Highways Agency spokesman said: "We should see traffic jams and slowing traffic dramatically reduced when the non-stop tolls are introduced."

There will be some job losses, however, as toll booth staff find their roles redundant. These are currently being negotiated.

However, drivers of hazardous materials will still need an escort and plenty of new signs will warn lost motorists of automatic tolls ahead, in time for them to turn off.

The battle to prevent over-height lorries will also be ramped up to avoid incidents that happen occasionally at the Blackwall Tunnel – the closest other crossing under the Thames.

Transport minister Stephen Hammond said the new system "shows the Government delivering on its promise to provide improvements that will help traffic flow better at this crucial gateway. This will help thousands of drivers who use the crossing every day, and benefit both the local and national economy".

READ ALL ABOUT IT

ON Tuesday, October 22, 1929 The Times wrote: ''Work has begun on the preparation of plans for the proposed tunnel under the Thames to connect Dartford and Purfleet. The matter is being investigated by the Ministry of Transport in conjunction with the county councils of Kent and Essex.

''The scheme for a tunnel was prepared in 1924 by the Ministry of Transport with a view to relieving congestion in the centre of London.

''The proposal, as outlined by Sir Henry Maybury, was that the tunnel, which would be about two and a half miles long, should provide road space for two lines of vehicles, with footpath accommodation for pedestrians.

''It was claimed the scheme would reduce the slow-moving traffic between London and the docks by one third, and deflect all the traffic from the North, South, and South-East from London. It would also give direct communication with the whole of the North of England without traffic having to pass through London.''

Pictures: COLIN PICKETT



BORING: Construction on the Darford Crossing began more than 50 years ago allowing access between Kent and Essex





Bridging the gap between counties

IT was a big day on November 18, 1963.

Cutting the journey time from Kent in to the heart of Essex was seen as vital to both business and the public, and a major relief to the over-stretched Blackwall Tunnel.

Traffic from the off was brisk; estimates of two million vehicles a year using it doubled in the first year.

Now it is a staggering 50 million.

At a time when the average three-bedroom terraced home was around £2,000, the cost for the tunnel, dug by 400 men, was massive at £13 million, so half crown tolls were used to help pay for it – 12.5p in 'new' money. Lorries were charged six shillings (30p).

It was so popular a second slightly larger bore was opened in 1980 costing £45m.

By this time, the M25 'dream' was in full swing with the second tunnel finished in 1986.

The bridge arrived in 1991 to further cope with the climbing vehicle numbers which presently average 135,000 a day, with a maximum of 165,000.

The fixed-link idea between the two counties was first floated by authorities in 1929.

In fact, a test bore was completed in 1938 for geological tests to be carried out with a view to opening it to traffic starting in the early 1940s.

But World War Two and its resulting financial woes put it on the back-burner until 1955.

The air in the tunnel was compressed during work to slow seepage of the Thames above, so much so the workers needed to spend just over an hour at the end of shifts in decompression chambers, akin to divers, when they resurfaced.

Pressures were said to be up to 35lbs per square inch, around three times what is normal on the surface. Effects of working in the tunnel could last several days.

Bubbles of the air could often be seen on the river.

Some 34,000 tons of steel lining sleeves were installed in the 1,600 yard-long tunnel. Boring progressed at just five feet per day.



£6.95 delivery for Hub.

UK residential broadband customers only. BT Broadband customers can watch BT Sport online at home with a minimum line speed of 400kbps. To watch BT Sport online elsewhere you need 3G/4G/wi-fi (charges may apply). To watch BT Sport at btsport.com you need Microsoft Silverlight. The BT Sport App works on iPhone 3GS and above, iPad iOS 5.1.1 and above and selected Android devices with OS 4.1. Max. 2 devices simultaneously. BT Sport is also available on the Sky Digital Satellite Platform for new and existing BT Broadband customers who sign up for 12 months or have 12 months remaining on their contract; ongoing renewal needed to get discounted BT Sport. Sky box and active viewing card required. E-billing required. Excludes Multiroom. Major League Baseball not available online. Please check bt.com/sport for details. Broadband: £10 a month for 12 months, then £13 a month plus BT line rental of £15.45 a month (changing to £15.99 a month from 4 Jan 2014). New BT Broadband customers only that sign up for a 12-month minimum term. Package includes BT Broadband with a 10Gb usage limit, Unlimited UK* Weekend Calls and a BT Home Hub (unless BT has already provided you with one). You'll need to pay by Direct Debit. Subject to availability. *Calls of up to an hour to 01, 02 and 03 numbers excluding the Channel Islands. Other exclusions apply. Calls to 0871 cost a maximum of 10.2p per minute plus 15p set-up fee; calls to 070 cost no more than 51p per minute, with a maximum set-up charge of 51p. See our terms and conditions at bt.com/terms. Prices may change during contract period. Terms apply.

Shepway Lifeline



"you helped Dad remain independent and gave the family peace of mind"

Shepway Lifeline

Call now for a FREE no obligation demonstration

01303 242615 or 01303 242 971

lifeline.proactive@shepway.gov.uk

www.shepwaylifeline.co.uk

Shepway Lifeline is part of Shepway District Council

Clients wear a personal pendant that works in their home or garden. Clients press a button and enjoy 24hour link to our friendly professional control centre team. We celebrate our Jubilee Year having provided 30 years telecare service.

Charges remain amongst the lowest in Kent at £2.90 per week (plus VAT if applicable) and this includes all maintenance costs

Take advantage of **LIFELINE ASSIST** our 24 hour responder service

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council www.shepway.gov.uk

tsa

FARLEYS

EST 1928





BUY AN ELECTRIC BED AND GET A FREE FITTED SHEET IN NOVEMBER

GET A VOUCHER
FOR A MEAL AT MILES BAR

WHEN SPENDING £200 IN STORE

ON DISPLAY
Fireplaces and Fires in Conjunction
with Invicta Gas of Whitstable

01227 770510

Kitchen Showroom,
5 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3TB

01227 379300

Ramsgate Showroom
46-54 Chatham Street, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 7PR
01843 593069

sales@jcfarley.co.uk





CLEAN STREETS: Canterbury councillor Paula Vickers put forward the 'drinks levy' after hearing of a similar scheme operating in Newcastle

City council considers late-night 'drinks levy'

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

PUBS and clubs serving alcohol to revellers after midnight could be forced to foot the bill for the extra police and clean-up teams needed on the street as part of a new 'drinks levy'.

Canterbury City Council this week agreed to look into plans which would cost night-time businesses up to £4,440 per year to pay for the consequences of late-night drinking.

The idea has been put forward by Barton ward councillor Paula Vickers who says the city's residents are fed up with late-night noise, public urination, vandalism and general mess caused by partygoers.

The new scheme, previously only adopted in Newcastle, would see venues – including off-licences – forced to pay between £299 and £4,440 a year depending on the rateable size of their business.

It would only apply to those venues selling alcohol after midnight.

The cash would then be distributed with 70 per cent going to the police and 30 per cent to the council to pay for any extra patrols or street cleaning that is needed.

Cllr Vickers said: "A resident told me about the Newcastle City Council initiative for a late-night levy and it made perfect sense to apply this to Canterbury.

"It simply isn't fair residents have to foot the bill for costs related to the night-time economy.

"The businesses which are making vast profits from the late-night economy are doing nothing to address the issue of anti-social behaviour once their customers have left the premises and are on the usual dispersal routes home, just outside the city walls.

"With government cutbacks to funding to the police this levy could pay for additional policing of Canterbury.

"This is not intended to restrict late-night businesses. Safer streets may actually see their profits rise."

The council says it could take up to a year to finalise details before the scheme could go ahead.

There remains a question mark over what exactly the money would be spent on, which establishments would be required to pay and what advantages and disadvantages the levy would bring with it.

Other Kent councils will watch the process with interest as they look to work out effective methods of policing their own night-time economy.

The county town, however, is unlikely to follow suit.

Chairman of Maidstone Town Centre Management, Paul Alcock, said: "When we discussed this scheme previously the community felt it wasn't a good idea.

"Maidstone is a well-run town and the night-time economy contributes a huge amount to the overall economy of the town centre.

"Therefore to impose a further tax or further burden on the nightclubs and pubs that open after midnight would not be fair.

"All of the Town Centre Management board thought that it would have a negative effect on the area."

As the purse strings tighten on local councils across the UK the drinks levy has been mooted a number of times as a viable way of making extra cash to pay for town centre clean-ups.

Neil Williams, from the Beer and Pub Association, is critical of the levy, despite it being sanctioned by the Home Office in allowing councils the power to use it.

He said: "If the council ends up introducing a levy that is too punitive then you will have businesses paying a charge when they may well not be causing any problems in the area.

"We are urging local authorities to think really very carefully before they go down that particular road.

"We think that working with the local trade and dealing with problem premises, forging partnerships to tackle problems that might exist, as the best way forward."

The scheme was also recently considered in Milton Keynes where the council looked into the drinks levy before deciding against it as a further duty on top of business rates, VAT and corporation tax.

A spokesman for Canterbury City Council said that while the matter was being discussed, there was still a lot of work to be done before any decisions were made.

He said: "Ideally we would want to look at evidence from elsewhere, but so far, only one other council, Newcastle, has imposed this levy, and only quite recently, so evidence of how it operates is quite limited.

"And as a much larger city, Newcastle may not provide the best comparison.

"Councillors asked that the research taking place should continue and officers will be doing this over the coming weeks."

• What do you think? Share your opinions. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

LOCHS & GLENS HOLIDAYS

Winter warmer

Loch Achray Hotel
Loch Lomond National Park STB ★★★

An early season 5 day coach break, offering exceptional value for money staying at our Loch Achray Hotel. There will be an excursion everyday including Edinburgh, Stirling, Callander and a cruise on Loch Lomond.

All for just
£128
per person

Tour includes:
4 Nights Half Board
Nightly Entertainment
All Excursions
Pickup from Ramsgate, Broadstairs, Margate, Birchington, Herne Bay, Whitstable, Canterbury, Birchanger Services

Your special coach departs **Monday 20th January**

01389 713713 www.lochs.com
Holidays are fully bonded.
School Road, Gartocharn, G83 8RW



BOUVERIE PLACE

www.mybouverieplace.co.uk
/bouverieplace

Allbits
Plumbing Supplies Ltd

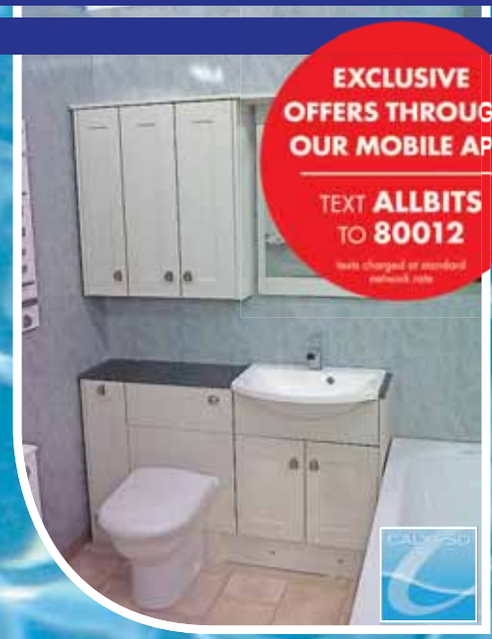
NEW BATHROOM FURNITURE RANGE NOW ON DISPLAY

COMING EARLY SEPTEMBER...

INTRODUCTORY OFFERS AVAILABLE







EXCLUSIVE OFFERS THROUGH OUR MOBILE APP

TEXT ALLBITS TO 80012

texts charged at standard network rate

ALL THE BITS FOR YOUR BATHROOM, AT HUGELY DISCOUNTED PRICES



NEW INTA SHOWER RANGE AVAILABLE NOW

INTA DELUGE OPTIMO SHOWER	INTA CITY SHOWER	INTA MOOD CONTEMPORARY EXPOSED SHOWER	INTA MOOD CONTEMPORARY CONCEALED SHOWER	INTA TELO SHOWER	INTA COOLFLOW SAFE TOUCH THERMOSTATIC SHOWER
RRP £407 OUR PRICE £270	RRP £267 OUR PRICE £160	RRP £354 OUR PRICE £200	RRP £375 OUR PRICE £200	RRP £151 OUR PRICE £95	RRP £166 OUR PRICE £115

Baths • Showers • Bathroom Suites • Plumbing Accessories & Essentials

VISIT OUR MASSIVE SHOWROOM

Opening Hours
Mon-Fri 7.30-5.30
Sat 9.00-4.00

ALLBITS
Plumbing Supplies

ALL Prices Include VAT at 20%

VISA Maestro MasterCard Switch

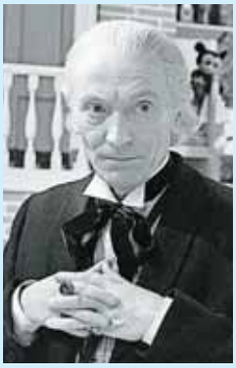
Unit 60, John Wilson Industrial Estate,
Kent, CT5 3QT Whitstable

Call us now: **01227 281648**



Time travel around Kent

Doctor Who has certainly had his ups and downs over the generations, but this weekend saw the show's popularity reach new heights as fans around the world waited to watch the much-trumpeted Day of the Doctor – a 75-minute special edition celebrating its 50th anniversary – broadcast on BBC1 and simultaneously in cinemas across the UK in 3D. Yet while the Doctor – currently portrayed by actor Matt Smith – met with various incarnations of himself, Kent was rejoicing in its strong links to what has become one of British TV's most successful and long-running series, as **Chris Murphy** found out.



Doctor's resting place

LONG before the arrival of sonic screwdrivers, William Hartnell (left) was doing battle with the likes of the Daleks as the first-ever Doctor from 1963 to 1966.

Born in London, he died of heart failure aged 67 at his home in Sheephurst Lane, Marden.

A regular on the big and small screen, as well as a veteran of the stage, he was spotted by producer Verity Lambert, who was putting together the idea of an extraordinary sci-fi series for 'children'. William reluctantly took the part that eventually made him famous the world over.

Earning a regular £315 per episode was good money too – that would be worth around £4,000 today. His co-stars were on a fraction of that.

Ill health and a souring with the crew finally led to him being replaced after almost 150 episodes and other appearances.



Baker's love of county

UNIVERSALLY acknowledged as the best-loved of the original incarnation of the Doctor Who series, Tom Baker, with his distinctive voice, has long since been synonymous with the Timelord.

And while his stint in the Tardis – which started in 1975 – ended in 1981, he is regularly spotted in and around the county he has called home for many years.

He not only loved the part, he fell in love with Sue Jerrard, an assistant editor on the show, and eventually made her his third wife in 1986.

They moved to a converted school in Boughton Malherbe, a village of less then 500 people near Maidstone.

It was later sold to comic Vic Reeves after the pair met while filming a reworking of Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased).

Tom and Sue went to live in France for a while before arriving back on these shores for a home in Tunbridge Wells in 2006.



Setting quite a few scenes

FOR eagle-eyed viewers of the original series, some alien terrain bore a rather familiar look.

During Jon Pertwee's time as the Doctor in the 1970s he became quite a regular in Kent.

Scenes were filmed at Kingsnorth on Hoo, Dover, Northfleet, Dungeness, Lydd and Shorncliffe barracks as well as Chislehurst Caves and the quarry which is now the Bluewater shopping complex.

Patrick Troughton, the second Doctor, filmed at Botany Bay near Broadstairs, Wrotham and the Red Sands Sea Fort, while William Hartnell filmed at a quarry in Stone for an early episode.

Sylvestor McCoy, the last Doctor before the show was mothballed prior to its relaunch in 2005, filmed in Hawkhurst, including what was Lillesden School.



STANDARD BEARER: Matt Smith currently plays the part of the 11th Doctor

Nation of the Daleks

THERE is no greater creation – other than the Doctor himself, of course – to emerge from the show than his arch-enemy the Dalek.

But did you know it was the brainchild of writer Terry Nation who lived in Lynsted Park, near Faversham? Mr Nation had started life as a comedian, but it was scriptwriting which would see him shoot to fame.

As well as the Daleks, he is responsible for work on Blake's 7, Survivors, The Avengers, The Saint and The Persuaders.



Herne Bay home of Tardis

THE BBC put on a special event in Herne Bay screening the first-ever episode. Tickets vanished within minutes of being released.

The town was chosen because it was the home of BBC writer and producer Anthony Coburn, who penned An Unearthly Child – the Doctor's first adventure.

He wrote the episodes at his house in Beltinge Road, and came up with the Doctor's constant sidekick – the Tardis.

He also decided it was best his pretty young 'companion/assistant' Susan be his grand-daughter, just to prevent any suggestions of anything else.



Cosy for companions

WHILE the Doctor flies through space and time, two of his companions decided Kent was a preferable option to the Tardis.

Janet Fielding, 60, who played Tegan Jovanka, lives in Ramsgate.

She teamed up with Tom Baker and Peter Davison between 1981 and 1984.

Later, she became the agent for actor Paul McGann when he became the eighth Doctor.

She now works as a community champion at Project Motor House to save the old motor museum at West Cliff Hall.

Louise Jameson, 62, is no stranger to the small screen having had roles in Bergerac and Eastenders. But she will never be able to shrug off the role of alien Leela – companion to Tom Baker's Doctor in 1977.

Ms Jameson now teaches youngsters drama and theatre-craft at a local Sunday drama club in Tunbridge Wells.

She told us this week: "Who would have thought a 10-month job almost 40 years ago would still be having this knock-on effect.

"I am so proud to have been part of it."

Tom Baker was not that taken with her outrageous character at first – he admitted to not liking her somewhat combative attitude to their various foes.

She said: "There was a bit of friction in rehearsal, but I get on so well with him now as we have reprised the characters in recording studios. He is one of my dearest friends."



FREE CONSTRUCTION ON ALL LOG CABINS

Johnsons Est. 1960
Outdoor Living

SAVE UP TO £2549

AMAZING OFFER THIS MONTH!
*Not in conjunction with any other offer



*WE GUARANTEE TO BEAT ANY COMPETITORS PRICE

*FULL BESPOKE SERVICE

*ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGE PRICES

*NO HIDDEN EXTRAS







FREE CONSTRUCTION ON ALL LOG CABINS!

Johnson's Nursery - Old Thanet Way, Chestfield, Kent CT5 3JD - 01227 793717

Polhill Garden Centre - London Rd, Halstead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 7AD Car Park B - 01959 533466

Newnham Court Shopping Village - Bearsted Rd, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5LH at rear of Notcutts - 01622 730777

New Site - Bybrook Barn Garden Centre - Canterbury Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 9JZ. - 01233 878412

New Site - Elm Court Garden Centre, Capstone Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3JQ - 01634 405859

Call us now on **0845 45 99 444** to book your FREE site visit - www.johnsonsgardenbuildings.co.uk

Victims given final word on how offender affected them

Criminal fines to pay for face-to-face meeting with those who suffered. **Marijke Cox** reports

IT WAS top of the list of Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes's pre-election pledges.

Now, one year on, her hope of putting victims at the heart of the criminal justice system has taken a step forward – and offenders are paying for the privilege.

Fines levied on crooks as well as confiscations of ill-gotten gains are to help fund restorative justice across the county, amounting to £311,000 over the next two years in Kent.

Restorative justice is a process of bringing together victims and offenders, either face-to-face or contact through a mediator.

Victims get the chance to say just how they have been affected by the crime, get answers and receive an apology from the offender.

Ministry of Justice chiefs, who announced the Government funding this week, believe it allows everyone affected by the particular incident to get support and move forward.

Justice minister and Ashford MP Damian Green said: "Many victims get to see sentences handed down in the courts, but it's not always enough to help them move on with their lives.

"Restorative justice gives victims the opportunity to look offenders in the eye and explain to them the real impact the crime has had on their life. The process also provides a chance for offenders to face the consequences of their actions."

For Mrs Barnes, it forms part of her quest to see better treatment and support for victims.

The commissioner says a big part of her manifesto is to put victims at the heart of the criminal justice system.

She welcomed the Government money and announced her hopes to set up a victims' centre; a one-stop-shop offering a range of different services.

"I've been a victim of crime and it's a terrible experience, so I really want to do all I can to help," she said.

"I will be focusing on victim services next year and identifying local needs."

The funding – which nationally amounts to £29 million for PCCs and charities to roll out the scheme – coincides with Restorative Justice Week which aims to raise awareness of the process.

Mr Green stressed it was not about letting offenders get away with their crimes.

He said; "Restorative justice is not a soft option and will not lead to offenders escaping punishment. Crimes of a serious nature will continue to be progressed through the courts.

"Research shows that restorative justice is associated with high levels of victim satisfaction and can also help reduce reoffending by offenders."

• What do you think of restorative justice? Share your opinion. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.



What is restorative justice?

IN essence, it is a way of empowering victims, giving them a chance to meet the offender and get some answers as to why they carried out the crime.

Perhaps more significantly, it lets the victim tell the crook just how that crime has impacted their life, appealing to them to look at their actions.

Making it personal is more likely to affect the conscience of the offender than if the victim remained faceless.

Those behind the scheme say it forms part of the drive to reduce reoffending.

Courts will be able to use powers to defer sentencing to allow for restorative justice – but both the victim and offender must be willing to participate.

How does restorative justice take place?

IT can happen a number of ways, from a face-to-face meeting to messages being sent back and fourth between the offender and the victim.

- Face-to-face involves a trained facilitator and supporters, usually family members. Social workers and other representatives from the community may also be involved in the meetings.
- A community conference involves members of a community which has been affected by a particular crime, for example, anti-social behaviour or burglaries.
- Indirect communication – sometimes called a shuttle mediation – involves a trained facilitator passing messages back and fourth between the victim, offender and supporters, who do not meet.

The Denture Clinic
"Smile with Confidence"
• Express Denture Repair, Reline and addition Service.
• New Cosmetic Dentures with Jaw Line Improvement
• All Work Produced on Premises, Excellent Aftercare
• GDC Registered Clinical Dental Technicians
Call today for a FREE initial consultation
31 Roper Close, Canterbury, 01227 764241
110 High Street, Broadstairs, 01843 600789
www.dentureclinicincanterbury.co.uk
www.dentureclinicinbroadstairs.co.uk

Zen Car Factors
• End of life vehicles purchased
• All grades of iron & steel purchased
Richborough Road, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9JE
01304 617733 (Non-ferrous department)
JOHN BUTCHER BROS
Unit 11-12 Canterbury Industrial Park, Island Road, Hersden, Canterbury, Kent CT3 4HQ 01227 713850
• Uniform prices paid at both depots •
Bright Wire £4,000 per tonne
New Production Brass Cuttings £2,800 per tonne
Clean Aluminium Wheels £860 per tonne
Household Cable £1,360 per tonne
Lead £1,080 per tonne
Prices applicable until Tuesday 26th November
All other non-ferrous metals purchased with immediate payment

ARE YOU A VICTIM OF MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE?
Call Girlings' Medical Negligence Helpdesk on 0845 2221 999 for FREE, no obligation advice on your claim
Girlings
apil
www.girlingspersonalinjury.co.uk
KENT no win no fee specialists



HEAR US ON heart

text Shuttle to 80012
Texts charged at standard network rate

AIRPORT CONNECTIONS

START YOUR JOURNEY WITH US!

SHUTTLE SERVICE

Gatwick and Heathrow daily for only

£40 SINGLE PER PERSON

£75 RETURN PER PERSON

Collection times from:
2am • 4am • 9am • 1pm

£65 2 PEOPLE SINGLE

£120 2 PEOPLE RETURN

NO DRAMA
NO HASSLE
NO FUSS
NO STRESS
NO PARKING



PICK UP POINTS

- MARGATE
- RAMSGATE
- BROADSTAIRS
- BIRCHINGTON
- WESTGATE
- SANDWICH
- DEAL
- DOVER
- FOLKESTONE
- HERNE BAY
- WHITSTABLE
- FAVERSHAM
- CANTERBURY
- ASHFORD

Check out our new Mobile App for Shuttle Service TEXT Shuttle to 80012 or scan in the QR code below

RETURN FROM
HEATHROW
08.00 • 10.00
15.00 • 19.00

RETURN FROM
GATWICK
08.45 • 10.45
15.45 • 19.45

01843 823007
01843 823700

For more information on our services go to:
www.connections4you.net



Win annual family ticket to enjoy the Christmas festivities at Leeds Castle

THE 'loveliest castle in the world' becomes a winter wonderland next month as it unveils its very own Twelve Days of Christmas.

Running from December 7-24, the castle will see its state rooms brimming with traditional decorations, twinkling lights and fragant pine trees.

With log fires crackling in the crate, there will also be a German-style Christmas market in the grounds, with a host of chalets offering perfect gift ideas. Many local suppliers will be offering home-made pies, meats, cheeses, fudge, chutneys, spirits and liqueurs; ideal for the Christmas dinner table.

What's more Father Christmas will be in attendance too – complete with his reindeer.

Children will also love the new husky sleigh rides, on December 7, 8, 14, 15, 21-24. You can have a photograph taken 'hugging a husky' afterwards. It costs just £3 per child per ride.

And you can soak up all the atmosphere for free by being one of the lucky winners of our great competition.

KoS has teamed up with Leeds Castle to give away five annual family tickets – each of which allowing entrance for two adults and two children to join in all the festive fun.

To have a chance of winning just answer the following question:

What is Father Christmas' sleigh pulled by? a) Pigeons **b)** Reindeer **c)** Mice

To enter text KOS followed by XMAS and your answer then your first name, surname address and postcode to 80058, e.g. KOS XMAS C JOHN SMITH 2 THE STREET, TOWN, DV2 2GT. Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rate. Winners will be selected from all correct entries. The promoter's decision is final. Usual terms and conditions apply.

Please note if you should enter after the closing deadline of December 2, 2013, your entry will not be valid, but you still may be charged. See kentnews.co.uk for the full terms and conditions.

SMS services are provided by BBA Digital Helpline Telephone 0844 3572403.

Or enter by post to Xmas Competition, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth,Ashford TN25 6SS, including your name, address, postcode and daytime phone number.

And don't worry if you don't win. You can buy a discounted £7 grounds and market only ticket if you do not already have a Key to the Castle ticket.

LEEDS CASTLE
KENT ENGLAND



Specialising in Cambelt Replacement

- 2 Year Warrenty on cambelts fitted by us
- Vehicle Servicing
- General Repairs
- Cambelt Replacements
- *All repair work guaranteed*
- *Local collection and delivery available*

J D CAMBELTS



01227 860859
info@jdcambelts.co.uk
www.jdcambelts.co.uk

HURRY!
HALF PRICE
day trip to France

Only £23 per car, return*

- Price includes the car and up to 9 people
- Folkestone to Calais in just 35 minutes
- Plus exclusive partner offers

Call 0844 335 8392 now
eurotunnel.com/dayoffer



Cedess 803753

* Valid for travel on any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, subject to availability until the 12th of December 2013. Offer can be withdrawn at anytime without prior notice. Terms and conditions apply.

EURO TUNNEL le shuttle
drive through europe

UK STONE IMPORTS Ltd

Granite . Sandstone . Limestone . Slate . Marble

SPECIAL OFFER

While stocks last

BLACK LIMESTONE CALIBRATED PATIO PACKS

£16.50 m2 + VAT **(Part packs supplied)**



Natural Stone Paving, Patio, Driveway and Landscaping Products

- Internal flooring available
- Supply to both the private and commercial markets
- Professional advice
- Huge selection of products in stock
- Nationwide delivery service
- Laying service available



Mint Fossil Sandstone



Kandla Grey/Sandstone



Raj Sandstone

Tel: 01227 713832

www.ukstoneimports.com

enquiries@ukstoneimports.com

follow us on



Author brings teacher to book for inspiring him

A budding author has fulfilled his goal after clinching a major book deal. Christopher Yates, 41, grew up in Rainham, in Medway, but now lives in New York. His book Black Chalk is a roller-coaster thriller about university students locked in a game of dare spiralling out of control. Writing exclusively for KoS, Mr Yates explains how the crowning moment of getting his work published was a heart-warming reunion with a teacher who inspired him in his love of literature. And, in a special Q&A, he explains about his career so far…

I WAS in New York City, 3,497 miles from my childhood home in Rainham, Kent, when I found out that finally, after a long and painful few years, my novel Black Chalk had an offer from one of the best publishers in the UK.

New York had been my home for several years, but no-one in America wanted my book.

There were several close calls, but ultimately scores of rejections.

Now I was going to be published in the place I still consider home.

There were a few things I had to do right away.

The first was to let out a clenched-fist scream – like a Premiership footballer who's scored his best ever goal.

Next I had to phone my wife, then my mother.

And then I had to let my closest friends and family know.

But very soon, I thought about someone else I wanted to contact, who I wanted to thank, someone I hadn't seen for more than 20 years.

My old English teacher at Rainham Mark Grammar School, Mr Akehurst.

I'd had several good teachers at school, a few excellent ones who'd encouraged me to think for myself and helped me earn a place at Oxford. Mr Akehurst had never directly encouraged me to become a writer.

Why did I especially want to

PAGE 36 »

« PAGE 35

contact him, to thank this teacher more than the others?

I think it's because Mr Akehurst, lesson after lesson, made serious books seem unstuffy, unintimidating. He made discussing their meaning feel like something normal human beings could do without requiring a pipe and a tie covered in port stains.

We studied the play Equus, the poetry of Philip Larkin, we studied F Scott Fitzgerald and Shakespeare...

No, that's wrong. We didn't study them, we just talked about them, we nattered away about serious literature. These classroom chats were fun, they were funny.

And this is something that's very important in my own writing. While I hope my book is meaningful, I also want to entertain.

I'd like to imagine people nattering about my story the way we had talked about literature in a classroom with views of the River Medway 23 years ago.

And so I was resolved.

Yes, I wanted to thank Mr Akehurst. However, I couldn't find any contact details for him on the school website; it seemed like he no longer worked there.

I emailed the school and expected to receive a reply saying he had retired and they had no way of contacting him.

This would have been a shame because I wanted Mr Akehurst to take some credit for my book.

In my email to the school, I wrote: "Without the encouragement and dedicated support of teachers such as Mr Akehurst, I would never have considered myself worthy of higher education, let alone believed myself capable of writing a novel."

But I also had another feeling, an odd one considering I'd been taught by him for only two years and we're obviously not related – I hoped he was proud of me.

Two days later, I received an email from Mr Akehurst himself; he had retired, but the school passed on my message.

It was heart-warming reading his response, which was studded with the same wry sense of humour he always employed in the classroom.

"Your Google picture looks like you. Didn't you dye your hair in the Sixth Form?"

I had, disastrously.

We exchanged a few more emails, memories, updates.

And then came the time for my book launch.

My wife and I flew to London, the launch party would be in a Notting Hill bookshop.

This was thrilling in itself, but I was also excited to see so many of my family and friends, who I miss very much living in the States.

I was standing on the pavement outside the bookshop, about to go in, and there, walking towards me, was Mr Akehurst.

I had sent him an invite and he had travelled up from Rainham to be there. He had a little less hair, but the same sense of humour.

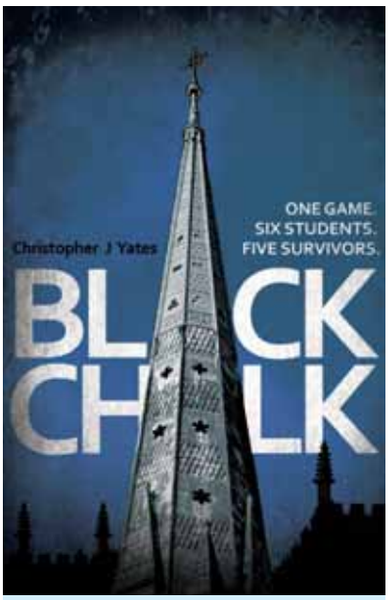
He insisted I call him Andrew and scoffed at me for finding this uncomfortable. We posed for some photographs, exchanged a few words and then the party began.

The party sucked me in (a speech to give, so many people to catch up with, to thank) and I only got to exchange a few more words with Mr... with Andrew.

But I didn't need to wonder whether he was proud.

Because he was there. I could see him across the room speaking with great animation and I felt certain he had to be nattering away about books.

It made me feel very grateful.



Rave reviews for Black Chalk

IT was only ever meant to be a game.

A game of consequences, of silly forfeits, childish dares. A game to be played by six best friends in their first year at Oxford University.

But then the game changed: the stakes grew higher and the dares more personal, more humiliating, finally evolving into a vicious struggle with unpredictable and tragic results.

Now, 14 years later, the remaining players must meet again for the final round.

Black Chalk, the debut novel by Christopher Yates, is already receiving rave reviews.

The Daily Mail said it was ''laced with convincing student dialogue (the author is himself an Oxford graduate) this is a thriller, a cautionary tale and a sobering exploration of unintended consequences rolled into one''.

■ Black Chalk is published by Harvill Secker and written by Christopher J Yates. It is available now. To find out more visit www.christopherjyates.com





THANKS, SIR: Christopher Yates with his former English teacher Andrew Akehurst at the launch of his first novel Black Chalk

Chris Britcher spoke to Christopher Yates about his life in Kent, moving across the Atlantic and his literary ambition

Q You live in New York and were born in London – when and where did you live in Kent?

A My family moved from London to Kent when I was two years old and I lived in Rainham from then until I went to university at 18. And then on and off until I moved to London for my first job, at 22.

Q How did you find growing up in Medway? What were your most vivid memories?

A I was probably not the most popular boy at school. You don't really hear many tales of the introverted, book-reading, novelist-aspiring boys being the ones who have all the friends and get all the girls.

I loved the countryside. I would go on long bike rides, pick blackberries and eat sweet chestnuts, go for walks along the Medway.

My big social activity was cricket. I played for Rainham CC and believe I still hold the record for the seventh wicket partnership.

I may not have scored many of the runs in that partnership, but I doggedly stuck at my task of survival.

Q You attended university with a view to a career in law, but found yourself drawn to the world of puzzle magazines – how did that come about and how did puzzles triumph over the lure of riches in the legal profession?

A Yes, I studied law and then qualified to begin pupillage (an apprenticeship for barristers).

I always enjoyed puzzles as a child and I still love to solve cryptic crosswords. But really I fell into puzzles as an escape from the law, which I had gradually realised I disliked and would be immensely ill-suited to.

I love words, but I discovered that I'm no orator; I'm far better with words when I sit quietly alone in a room and write them down.

Q How did you end up moving to New York – and do you have any plans to return to the UK?

A My wife, Margi, is American but moved to Britain when she was 22. While we were living in London, she was offered a six-month stint in New York covering maternity leave at a magazine. We thought six months in the Big Apple would be fun. That was seven years ago.

We have thoughts of returning to the UK rather than plans. Manhattan is an incredible place, but neither of us see ourselves living there forever, we both miss the UK.

My recent visit made me quite homesick. We fell in love with London all over again and then treasured our time taking rural walks to country pubs in Kent.

At the end of the trip we sucked in (and sucked down) the sea air and oysters of Whitstable. It was all utterly idyllic.

Q When did your desire to become a writer first emerge?

A I think it's something that grew and grew in me. I loved it when my mother read books to my sister and I, curled up on her lap.

I always did well writing stories at school. And I loved going to Rainham Bookshop (now sadly no more).

I wrote poetry and stories as a teenager and tried to write my first novel at 17, although I didn't get very far.

Then I went to university, forgot about writing, started working, enjoyed my 20s… and at 30 an alarm went off in my head. I knew I had to quit my job and write. So that's what I did.

Q Where were your first – non-puzzle related – articles published?

A I was in charge of puzzles for Take a Break magazine, but I also wrote some travel articles for them.

When I left there to go freelance (and work on my fiction), I wrote several pieces for the Daily Express.

One time I had to dress up as Don Johnson from Miami Vice and see how people reacted to me in various London pubs.

This is how most literary careers should begin.

Q Did you always have a desire to pen a novel?

A I thought I was going to be a poet when I was 16 – I was one of those quiet, introverted teens, as mentioned.

But once my poetry-writing phase was over, yes, it was always ideas for novels that were lurching around inside my head.

Q Is it correct you set yourself a goal of getting published before you turned 40?

A .Absolutely correct. I was on holiday in Puerto Rico to celebrate my 40th birthday and at the age of 39 years and 364 days, I found out, completely out of the blue, that I had a book deal being offered to me.

And so one day before turning 40, I knew I was going to be published. In Russia. It's still something of a mystery how the Russian deal came about – no-one from my literary agency sent my novel to Russia.

There are mysterious people in the world of books called literary scouts. It seems likely one of these scouts got hold of my novel and passed it on to Russia without telling my agency.

So the offer really did come out of the blue.

The deal with the UK actually arrived two months later, but technically I had already achieved my goal.

Q Black Chalk is your first novel – has seeing it be published been as fulfilling as you'd hoped?

A Yes and no. Yes because the sense of satisfaction the day after my launch party was enormous. I felt fulfilled in a very close-to-the-soul sense. It's a day I'll never forget.

I wish there wasn't a 'no' because it makes me feel wretched and ungrateful.

But now, just a few months after the launch, I find myself worrying about my first book doing well enough and terrified that my second book won't be good enough.

I realise this makes me deserving of a sharp slap. If there were a button that could turn these feelings off, I wouldn't hesitate to press it.

Q Can we expect to see a second book any time soon?

A It took me two years to write the first draft of Black Chalk. And five years to rework it sufficiently to get a publishing deal.

And it took 520 days from hearing about the deal for Black Chalk to the day when it actually came out.

Meanwhile, I'm 40,000 words into a second novel, which is (hopefully) about 40 per cent of the way through.

All of these factors might suggest that this is not a light-speed process. Although much of the fault for that lies with me. I wish I could be quicker. And get everything right the first time round.

Winter Wonderland

featuring

Jeff Barker

and the Big Band Experience

Tickets £29.50

Margate Winter Gardens
Saturday 30th November
7.30pm - 1am

- Magical Winter Wonderland setting
- Iced cocktail on arrival
- Four-course sumptuous meal
- Live entertainment with Jeff Barker & the Big Band Experience
- Ending with a DJ into the early hours

Whether you are a small party of two or a group of two hundred, book your place now via our central booking office
Tel: 01843 292795
Email: admin@margatewintergardens.co.uk

Dress to impress. Guests should be 18yrs+







FOR THE HIGH JUMP: Princess Anne made her comments during the annual conference of the World Horse Welfare charity, of which she is president – and she has been met with approval by some

Horses for main courses?

Princess Anne's affinity with horses dates back decades, but her recent contentious comments they could be used as another source of meat for our table has sparked heated debate, especially after the furore caused by the national horsemeat scandal which broke this year, writes **Joe Bill**

EARLIER this year, the suggestion we may have inadvertently been eating horsemeat in some of our meals sparked a national scandal.

Now, however, the idea of mass marketing the meat as a mainstream alternative to the likes of chicken, pork and beef, appears to have secured the royal seal of approval.

Princess Anne has long been associated with the equine world.

She competed at the 1976 Olympic Games for Britain in the eventing team and spent eight years as president of the Fédération Équestre Internationale, the sport's governing body.

Hence her statement during the annual conference of the World Horse Welfare charity, of which she is president, created more than a few ripples.

She told the audience: "Should we be considering a real market for horsemeat and would that reduce the number of welfare cases, if there was a real value in the horsemeat sector?

"I 'chuck' that out for what it's worth because I think it needs a debate."

In short, if there was a meat market would horse owners take more care of their animals knowing they could sell them on rather than simply abandon them?

It comes as part of an on-going conversation amid mounting concern over horse welfare, with an estimated 7,000 animals at risk this year through neglect.

But while horsemeat is accepted on the plate in mainland Europe, the British have a very different relationship with the animal and making the leap from field to dinner table is one many cannot stomach.

Breeders Kent Horse Producers operate out of Harvel, near Dartford.

Owner Stephen Hendry backs the Princess Royal and believes attitudes from the public need to change towards horses.

He said: "The attitude of the nation has to change towards horsemeat.

"There are so many horses out there with no value whatsoever. The best thing to do with them, especially if they are neglected or in pain, is to enter them into the food chain."

The issue remains fresh in people's minds after it was revealed earlier this year a number of products contained horsemeat rather than the stated beef or pork.

A consequence of suppliers using the meat, the discoveries sparked a major investigation into exactly what goes into the foods we buy in our major supermarkets and retailers.

While there was never any suggestion of threat to health, the mislabelling left many angry and reminded everyone of the nation's sensitivity to an animal it sees more as intelligent companion than main course.

REAL 'HOOF-FUL'

A TABOO in some countries – most notably the UK and America where the horse has been granted pet status – eating horsemeat is part of culinary culture in plenty of others.

It is estimated the top horsemeat consuming nations consume up to 4.7 million of the animals every year.

Among the biggest markets are China, Mexico, Argentina, Italy and Brazil. The meat is described as having a slightly sweet taste, is tender and traditionally low in fat.

Mr Hendry added: "I would be interested to know if people were actually annoyed that it was horsemeat they were eating or whether it was because they were told it was pork or beef and it wasn't.

"Many horses don't make the grade for racing, showjumping or work and so thousands are left with no value.

"I completely agree with Princess Anne about this and I think that most horse sanctuaries and charities would probably agree there are too many horses with nowhere for them to go.

"The princess is president of the World Horse Welfare charity and the chief executive is calling for it as well – that tells you all you need to know."

But despite several vocal supporters, there are plenty of opponents too.

Tonbridge-based charity Animal Aid hit out at the royal saying she is naïve to believe her theory.

A spokesman said: "The idea horses will be better protected if we eat their flesh is nonsense.

"The production, trade and slaughter of hundreds of millions of other farmed animals such as chickens, pigs and cows does not stop them being mistreated and abused.

"Horses, especially among her social set, are supposed to be cherished yet she wants to treat them as disposable livestock.

"What next? The Queen's corgis?"

Family butcher JC Rook & Sons has been trading in Kent for more than 40 years. It currently has 13 shops operating in the county and supplies meat to restaurants, schools, hotels and pubs.

Joint owner Christopher Rook doesn't believe that horsemeat would be accepted by the UK public or his customers in Kent.

He said: "We wouldn't be interested in selling it; there isn't a market for it out there.

"Certainly not in retail, maybe in dog food or something like that, maybe. People in this country don't want to eat horses."

Mr Rook said he has tried horsemeat, but doesn't remember liking it ahead of beef, lamb or poultry.

He added: "The outcry earlier this year showed it wouldn't work in this country.

"There is not a demand for it. We have enough things to eat with our other livestock to be brutally honest, haven't we?"

Chief executive of the World Horse Welfare charity, Roly Owers, believes the Princess Royal was brave in tackling the taboo topic.

He said: "Around 7,000 horses are currently at risk of abandonment and neglect and charities such as ours are struggling to cope as winter approaches.

"The economic downturn has driven prices for horses and ponies to rock bottom, and the sad fact is that from a purely economic perspective, they can now be worth more as meat.

"Many in the horse world have known this for a long time. Our president has been brave enough to say this openly in the hope of generating a thought-provoking debate."

Quality oak flooring from £16.99 +VAT
available from stock



A Great Range of Fencing and Gates
available from stock

WINGHAM TIMBER & MOULDINGS LTD

01227 720537

www.winghamtimber.com

WINGHAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, GOODNESTONE ROAD, WINGHAM, CANTERBURY, KENT, CT3 1AR

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri: 8–5, Sat: 8.30–12.30

Visit our shop for:

SAWN TIMBER
PLANED TIMBER
HARDWOOD
TREATED TIMBER

SHEET MATERIALS
FENCE PANELS
FENCING GATES
SLEEPERS

QUALITY DECKING
TIMBER MOULDINGS
PAINTS & STAINS
IRONMONGERY

NAILS & FIXINGS
TOOLS
ELECTRICAL
INSULATION

SEALANTS & ADHESIVES
CEMENT
AGGREGATES

MIU closure cuts deep despite pressure on A&E

A decision to close Faversham's minor injury unit comes in the same week top medical director highlighted vital role they perform in NHS, writes **Marijke Cox**



HEALTH chiefs have admitted their hands are tied over the closure of one of the county's minor injury units (MIUs) as the battle to ease pressure off accident and emergency rages on.

It marks yet another dilemma in the worsening A&E crisis in a week where the medical director for NHS England, Sir Bruce Keogh, stressed the current system was under "intense, growing and unsustainable pressure".

The closure of Faversham's MIU, due in March 2014, comes in stark contrast to the NHS plea for people who are not seriously sick to avoid using A&E departments and instead go to walk-in centres and MIUs.

But with the Canterbury and Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) admitting it was unable to find a provider of services for the unit, its future looks bleak.

Faversham town team lead for the CCG, Dr Simon Lundy, said providers could not offer the service with the money available.

"I can't emphasise our disappointment enough," he said.

"We don't want to be in a position where we have to close the minor injuries service, but that's where we are."

He said the CCG had carried out a rigorous procurement process but that, while there was a lot of initial interest, the bids failed to materialise.

"Previously, the CCG paid the provider a set amount, regardless of the number of patients who were seen – known as a 'block contract'.

"Minor injuries services under the national 'Payment by Results' guidance are on a 'per patient basis', so providers only receive payment for the patients they treat."

Payment by Results is a way, the Government says, of making the system fairer, more transparent and to reward efficiency.

It forms part of the radical changes within the NHS in which GPs – as part of clinical commissioning groups – are in charge of commissioning services, rather than the now defunct primary care trusts.

But it seems the new payment system is already running into problems.

"It would appear that no provider wants to take on the Faversham service as it would not be financially viable for them to do so," said Dr Mark Jones, chair of NHS Canterbury and Coastal CCG.

Health watchdog Monitor revealed last week that one in four walk-in centres nationally have closed in recent years.

Such centres are open seven days a week and don't require patients to make an appointment.

They ease pressure off hospitals, dealing with minor ailments, allowing A&E staff to deal with the more sick and seriously injured.

Reasons behind the closures include concerns over duplication of services and therefore payments by commissioners, as well as confusion over who should decide their fate when contracts come up for renewal.

Kent has a number of MIUs and walk-in centres across its districts.

But despite this, intense pressure on A&E services has continued to plague the county.

Quite what is causing the crisis is unclear.

Earlier this year, GPs in Kent pointed the finger at the new 111 phone service – which replaced NHS Direct – claiming call handlers were telling callers to go to A&E so to avoid any risks.

They also stated that in the early stages of the roll-out there were simply not enough people to field the calls; so instead people turned up at A&E.

Hospitals, however, said it was more likely because patients had been unable to get an appointment at their GP surgery.

NHS medical director Sir Bruce Keogh said a rising demand from an ageing population, a confusing and inconsistent array of services outside hospital, and high public trust in the A&E brand, were the reasons behind it.

But other medical professionals waded into the row stating it came down to education and teaching the public not to use A&E as the first port of call.

Just this week, Sir Bruce announced plans for a "fundamental shift" in provision of urgent care.

This could mean a two-tier A&E system, with some hospitals becoming major emergency centres for the seriously sick or injured with specialist expertise and equipment, and others being ordinary emergency centres, coping with less specialised care.

> **"I would no provider wants to take on the Faversham service as it would not be financially viable for them to do so"**
>
> **Dr Simon Lundy,** Faversham town team lead for the CCG

This could, however, lead to some patients having to travel further.

Changes have also been suggested in the way ambulance crews and the 111 phone service work as well as greater coordination between GPs and pharmacists to help ease pressure.

Sir Bruce said: "We need to ensure there is absolute clarity and transparency about what services different facilities offer and direct or convey patients to the service that can best treat their problem."

In April this year, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) was forced to implement a major incident procedure due to the sheer number of patients at it's A&E departments at the William Harvey in Ashford, the Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother in Margate and the Kent and Canterbury. The measure is usually only put in place in the event of a surge of casualties from, for example, a multi-vehicle crash.

It was all hands on deck for medical staff, with clinics cancelled and outpatient workers drafted in to help due to the unprecedented demand.

Health chiefs urged people only to use A&E in an absolute emergency and to instead use minor injury units and walk-in centres.

The measure has since been stepped down, but the message remains the same; the public need to think carefully about which services they choose.

But critics argue that information as to where to find MIUs and walk-in centres means people will continue to simply attend A&E as they have always done.

The new Payment by Results problem might, some campaigners predict, also lead to more closing.

Campaigners and the community in Faversham are being invited to discuss the situation at a meeting with the CCG on December 6.

More than 1,000 people have already thrown their weight behind the Save Faversham MIU Group and a petition has been launched.

Veteran hospital campaigner and governor at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, Ken Rogers, said it was ludicrous the closure should even be contemplated.

"These units are vital in making sure pressure on our A&Es is reduced this winter," he said.

"Faversham deserves its fair share of healthcare especially at this time when we are being told basic healthcare should be provided locally."

Fellow hospital governor Paul Durkin added: "We don't need any more pressure on our acute hospital; patients want to be treated in the community where possible."

Chair of the CCG, Dr Mark Jones, said the decision to close the MIU was not taken lightly.

"It's important we keep the closure in perspective – around 800 people per month use the service," he said.

"Of those, only 300 attended for a minor injury and at least 500 attended with a minor illness or for a treatment such as dressings or injections which are best dealt with elsewhere, for example, at a GP practice, pharmacy or through NHS 111.

"All of our practices are signed up to the 'Professional Standards for Urgent Care'. This means patients requiring urgent attention should always be offered the most appropriate type of appointment with a doctor or nurse, either face-to-face, over the phone or at home.

"We are also looking at rolling out an 'enhanced patient offer' which would mean all practices will be provided with the opportunity to provide a dressing and nursing service for their patients."

The meeting, arranged by the Friends of the Faversham Cottage Hospital and Community Health Centre, is being held at the Alexander Centre at 7pm on December 6.

Creating beautiful kitchens, completely tailored to meet your lifestyle & budget



Join us at Umbermaster and enjoy the Christmas spirit with a weekend filled with exciting cooking demonstrations at our Lenleys showroom in Canterbury.

Join us for a drink and enjoy some tasty treats freshly cooked for you by our Miele and Siemens home economists. They will be cooking up some delicious foods for you all to try, answering your questions and showing off the latest products and technology.

This event runs along with Lenleys Christmas sale preview weekend on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th December 2013 at:

In Lenleys, Roper Road Canterbury CT2 7EL
For more information call us on: 01227 766655

LENLEYS

FREE PRIZE DRAW FOR ALL ATTENDING

Miele

MIELE DEMONSTRATION

Saturday 14th December
10.00am - 5.00pm

SIEMENS

SIEMENS DEMONSTRATION

Sunday 15th December
10.30am - 5.00pm

Umbermaster

DESIGN | MANUFACTURE | INSTALLATION

Roper Place

www.umbermaster.co.uk

LENLEYS

19-25 Blenheim Close, Pysons Road Industrial Estate, Broadstairs, CT10 2YF
Telephone: 01843 602607

Lenleys, Roper Road, Canterbury CT2 7EL
Telephone: 01227 766655

Eye-witness to Navy wartime disaster wants truth revealed

Chris Murphy talks to 91-year-old George Humphreys who claims the tragic sinking of HMS Dasher in World War Two led to a government cover-up and the dumping of bodies in a mass grave in Scotland

A NAVY veteran who witnessed the start of Britain's worst military disaster at sea is determined to keep fighting to get to the truth of exactly what happened.

He claims – and his views are shared by experts on the topic – a major government cover-up took place to disguise the true fate of a ship during World War Two.

What is undisputed is the sinking of HMS Dasher, an Archer-class converted aircraft carrier, came at a heavy loss of life.

What happened next however, remains the subject of great conjecture. Were the hundreds of bodies simply dumped in mass graves and did the Ministry of Defence try and hush the disaster up to avoid a potentially damaging blow to morale?

George Humphreys, 91, from Whitstable, was on nearby ship the HMS Sark when the incident took place which would destroy the Dasher.

He claims to have seen a Swordfish biplane crash into the stern of the Dasher which was followed by a massive explosion that sent parts of the flight deck 100-feet into the air.

The drama took place on the Clyde, off the west coast of Scotland, between the ports of Ardrossan, on the Scottish mainland, and Brodick on the Isle of Arran.

The explosion took place on March 27, 1943.

In total 379 sailors and airmen lost their lives. Many were killed in the blast, but others are believed to have died either from hypothermia in the cold waters or were burned to death after oil on the sea's surface ignited.

HMS Dasher still sits on the seabed and divers recently managed to reach her remains to affix a remembrance plaque.

Official reports claim just 22 bodies were found – 13 of which were buried in Ardrossan.

But many – including Mr Humphreys who remains passionate justice should be seen to be done – believe there was a cover-up, with hundreds of bodies washing up on the west Scotland shoreline and buried in mass graves.

The veteran told KoS: "I want to keep this fight for truth going. The secrecy over this goes a long way up and I feel, all this time later, it is time for the full truth to be revealed.

"I don't understand why the families are being made to go so long without knowing for sure what happened to their loved ones.

"They need to know what happened to the bodies so they have full closure and, perhaps for some, a place to visit and grieve.

"Those left behind are getting older and surely it is only right they know what happened to their relatives who were on board the Dasher. I am very passionate about this battle – I saw those men dying."







ACCIDENT: Mr Humphreys has campaigned for the truth for who died on board HMS Dasher after it sunk in 1943

Last year, archaeologists sealed off part of Ardrossan cemetery to dig test trenches in a bid to find disturbed soil, a possible sign that it could be the proof of a mass grave.

> **"I want to keep this fight for truth going. The secrecy over this goes a long way up and I feel, all this time later, it is time for the full truth to be revealed"**
>
> **George Humphreys,** on reason for battle to reveal true story

But it was in vain and no evidence was apparently found.

We contacted Guard Archaeology that carried out the work, but the firm had no-one available to comment.

However, a report on the dig and use of 'low-level radar' concluded that while finding no actual remains "the survey does not rule out the possibility that there might be a large pit containing numerous bodies without coffins on the western side of the gravestones".

Mr Humphreys, a former telegraphist, said he was told about the mass grave by local children who had seen it happen.

The story was taken up more than 20 years ago by Ardrossan historian John Steele who has written several books on the subject.

He too believes the claims were part of a cover-up that goes all the way to Downing Street.

No exact cause of the incident was made public and even the disaster itself at the time was kept hushed up, said Mr Steele.

There were other theories, including a U-boat attack, a leaking fuel tank ignited by a cigarette and just poor design of the ship that was on a training exercise at the time.

Although Mr Humphreys says he saw the incident begin, his ship didn't have the performance to get on the scene in time and other faster ships were responding, so they went back to their tank-landing exercise.

The cover-up was so effective, he didn't realise the ship had sunk until years later.

Mr Steele said: "Of the bodies originally recovered, which was around 60, I am still to discover what happened to 44 of them.

"If the public suddenly saw all those coffins being moved they would know something major had happened, and the MoD didn't want that, so they were probably buried at night somewhere. Add to that, more bodies washed up on the beach near my home for three weeks afterwards and I am told they filled three buildings in local towns.

"Locals have told me of mysterious night-time lorry movements and I have just spoken to one man who was involved in the movement of these bodies.

"They were sworn to secrecy and he is still worried about the knowledge he has about this sinking and what happened to the dead."

In December 2008, the Royal British Legion wrote to Captain Steve Murdoch at the office of the First Sea Lord after Mr Humphrey's son had been in touch.

The legion's chairman, Peter Cleminson, said he's aware the incident was "treated as classified" and then added on the subject of missing graves: "I was with Alan West (former First Sea Lord) and mentioned this matter to him. He confirmed it was a delicate issue at the time but after 65 years, possibly less so now."

In the January 2009 reply, Capt Murdoch, the secretary and executive assistant to the First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, says the MoD nor the Commonwealth War Graves Commission "has any records, information or knowledge on the existence of any such graves. Although the assumption that some must exist is not new and surfaces from time to time".

He also says that unless "any real evidence" emerges, the subject is now regarded as closed by the MoD. He also acknowledged "the loss of life was so high and the number of known named graves so few".

Mr Steele said: "I am determined to get to the bottom of this. The families should have received telegrams telling them what had happened, but they didn't because the MoD wanted to keep it all secret."

As far as North Ayrshire Council, which covers Ardrossan, is now concerned, the search is over.

Spokesman Vicky Allan said: "We are satisfied the search was done properly and nothing was found."

The MoD naval command in Portsmouth said: "HMS Dasher sank in 1943, following an explosion on board where no enemy action was involved. Of the 528 personnel on board, 379 lost their lives.

"According to official records, 22 Royal Navy bodies were recovered and buried.

"The Ministry of Defence does not hold any information on burials of casualties from the loss of HMS Dasher that is not already in the public domain. There is no evidence to suggest that these were not conducted in accordance with the King's Regulations in force at that time."

READER OFFER Holidays

Call 01895 83 33 33
for bookings and information
ABTA Y0291

Holidays offered by GN Holidays, Higher Denham, Uxbridge UB9 5EL • Open: 9am to 5.30pm weekdays; 9.30am to 12.30pm Saturdays; closed Bank Holiday weekends • Email: info@gnholidays.com • www.gnholidays.com



Free Drinks

RIVIERA OF FLOWERS MONACO & PORTOFINO

Escorted Holiday by rail - afternoon departures
8 days, semi-all-inclusive, from £799pp
Departs 6 Apr, 6 Jun, 15 & 21 Sept, 2 Oct, 2014

CHAMPAGNE CHECK-IN
QUOTE: FR-KOS

This super holiday taking in the French and Italian Rivieras, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras before taking an afternoon Eurostar to Lille or Paris. After an overnight stay, we continue by TGV train to Nice then to Italy's Riviera of Flowers. Enjoy free drinks every night at the hotel and excursions to Monaco, Eze, Portofino and Dolceacqua.

INCLUDED:
- Escorted throughout
- Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras & return rail travel (from Ebbsfleet on request)
- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille
- 6 nights in Diano Marina - half board and free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night
- All excursions
- Transfers abroad



Free Drinks

MONACO HISTORIC GRAND PRIX & PORTOFINO

Escorted Holiday by rail - afternoon departure
8 days, semi-all-inclusive, £949pp
Departs 6 May, 2014

CHAMPAGNE CHECK-IN
QUOTE: HG5-KOS

This super holiday combines the glamour and excitement of the Monaco. Historic Grand Prix with the scenic delights and calm of Portofino on the Italian Riviera. Watch the Historic Grand Prix on race day from your reserved grandstand seats which put you at the heart of the action. You will also enjoy visits to Portofino, Dolceacqua & Cervo.

INCLUDED:
- Escorted throughout
- Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras & return rail travel (from Ebbsfleet on request)
- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille
- 6 nights in Diano Marina - half board and free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night
- All excursions • Transfers abroad

Also available: 5 days by rail - £759pp and 4 days by air - £599pp

MENTON LEMON FESTIVAL, NICE CARNIVAL & MONACO



QUOTE: DF2-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail - afternoon departure
8 days, semi-all-inclusive, £849pp
Departs 25 February, 2014

CHAMPAGNE CHECK-IN

This super holiday, taking in the French Riviera's premiere Carnivals, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras' famous champagne bar.

INCLUDED:
- Escorted throughout
- Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras & return rail travel (from Ebbsfleet on request)
- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris
- 6 nights in Diano Marina with buffet breakfasts and dinners and free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night - local beer, wine & spirits
- Included visits to Menton Lemon Festival, Nice Carnival, Monaco and Cervo
- All transfers abroad

ITALIAN LAKES - COMO, GARDA & MAGGIORE



QUOTE: LC6-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail
9 days, semi-all-inclusive, £1129pp
Departs 23 June, 2014

CHAMPAGNE CHECK-IN

Come with us to the Italian Lakes where the mountains roll down to the water's edge. We travel by Eurostar from London to Paris and by overnight train - with private 2-berth cabins - to Verona. We stay in a lakeside hotel on an all-inclusive basis including free drinks.

INCLUDED:
- Escorted throughout
- Return Eurostar to Paris and Thello rail travel to Verona, returning from Milan in a 2-berth overnight sleeper cabin
- 6 nights in a deluxe room at the 3 Star Britannia Excelsior Hotel on an all-inclusive basis
- Excursions
- All transfers abroad

MENTON LEMON FESTIVAL, NICE CARNIVAL & MONACO



QUOTE: ML2-2-KOS

Escorted Holiday by air
4 days, £399pp
Departs 21 February, 2014

Come with us to see the French Riviera's premiere Carnivals and visit Monaco. We fly from Gatwick to Nice and stay in chic Beaulieu Sur Mer. On the French Riviera we travel to Nice, Menton and Monaco on the scenic coastal railway and enjoy great views along the way.

INCLUDED:
- Return flights from Gatwick to Nice with cabin baggage
- Return transfers from Nice airport to hotel
- 3 nights B&B in 3-star hotel between Nice and Menton
- Return rail travel to Nice, Monaco and Menton
- Reserved grandstand seat at Menton Parade
- Services of a Tour manager in the resort

GRAND DANUBE 4-STAR RIVER CRUISE



QUOTE: DC-KOS

Escorted Fly-Cruise
9 days, from £1099pp
Departs 6 July, 27 July, 17 August & 5 October, 2014

Join us for a majestic cruise on the famous Blue Danube. With a tremendous variety of scenery, historic cities, romantic towns, superb architecture and cultural jewels, Europe's second longest river offers an incomparable river cruising experience. Ports of call include magnificent Vienna and Budapest, with overnight stops at each, and Bratislava.

INCLUDED:
- Escorted throughout abroad
- Return flights, with hold luggage, to Munich from a choice of UK airports - supp't may apply
- 1 night hotel B&B in Germany & 7 night full board cruise on the MS Serenity in a standard twin bed, outside cabin
- Transfers abroad

FERRARI - LIVE THE DREAM IN MARANELLO



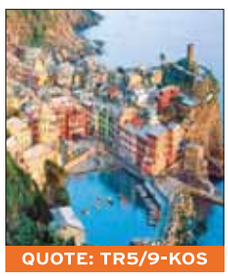
QUOTE: FE3/10-KOS

Escorted Holiday by air
4 days, £499pp
Departs 27 March & 16 October, 2014

Come with us to Maranello in Italy - home to the world's most famous sports car maker. Our tour takes in the The Ferrari Museum, The Enzo Ferrari Museum, the Fiorano test-track and Viale Enzo Ferrari. We stay at a Ferrari themed hotel and have the opportunity to take a Ferrari out for a spin.

INCLUDED:
- Escorted throughout abroad
- 3 nights B&B at the 4 star Maranello Village Hotel
- Return Easyjet flights, with hand luggage, Gatwick to Bologna
- All travel and excursions abroad

TUSCANY COAST & COUNTRY EXPLORER BY RAIL



QUOTE: TR5/9-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail
8 days, semi-all-inclusive, £899pp
Departs 23 May & 20 September, 2014

Come with us to incomparable Tuscany. The Tuscan seaside town of Forte dei Marmi has been described as the region's Beverly Hills and here we enjoy free drinks every night at our hotel. We will visit Lucca, Pisa, Florence and Portovenere - with access to stunning Cinque Terra. There is also the opportunity to visit Portofino.

INCLUDED:
- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request)
- 1 night hotel B&B in or near Nice & 6 nights in Italy with 6 buffet breakfasts, 6 dinners & Free Drinks from 6pm to 10pm every night
- Excursions & transfers

Note: Price of Holidays by Air subject to flight availability at time of booking - supplement may apply



TAKING A STAND: Ellen Kent is passionate about maintaining her take on opera. 'I don't think people like me retire,' she said.

No one does pomp of the opera like our Ellen

Naked singers, romping stallions and the odd fireball are the hallmarks of Ellen Kent's lavish brand of opera, she talks to **Greg Miles** about her journey through the entertainments industry from illiterate child to cigar-smoker.

SHE did not learn to read or write until she was 12 and spent her youth playing with the servants' children and appearing in amateur dramatics in Bombay.

It is an unusual life that Ellen Kent has led, from being the daughter of a high commissioner in India to one of the country's top opera and ballet directors.

The 64-year-old, who lives on the outskirts of Canterbury, is still relentlessly touring the country with her current productions of La Boheme, Nabucco and Aida, the last two appearing at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells at the start of next month.

If you are not familiar with her work, you can be assured of a slightly different experience at one of her shows, with naked singers, horses, fish, eagles and roaring fire all playing their part in her wildly extravagant shows for which she makes no apologies.

Before hitting it big with opera, she trained at the Old Vic Theatre School in Bristol, became an opera singer, worked in TV and directed a number of theatre productions.

The turning point came in 1992 when the-then Rochester Council in Medway asked her for a contribution towards a summer festival at Rochester Castle Gardens.

Despite having no more expertise than her interest in opera as a singer and child some years earlier, that is what she went for.

Since then it has been non-stop touring and development of her brand of lavish productions, which is quite a way from the "wild card" child who seemed to defy an education.

"In India I was a bit isolated. I didn't go to school until I was 12," she said.

"I was a little bit of a wild card. My mother used to teach the children to read and write in Bombay. She tried to teach me when I was eight or nine, but I stayed at home with the servants' children and got rid of a few governesses.

"I always said there was nothing wrong with my brain – I just didn't want to learn. They did try to send me to school, but they said I was educationally abnormal, so my mum just kept me at home."

It was her mother who played a big part in sowing the seeds of her interest in the theatre: "My mother was the inspiration, really. She was a massive amateur producer in the local operatic society in Bombay.

"I was in every single thing she did. I used to have to dress up in these special silk costumes made in India. I was in the Nativities, or if there was a little part in any opera, I was there. She more or less ran it.

> **"I just didn't want to learn. They did try to send me to school, but they said I was educationally abnormal, so my mum just kept me at home"**

"I remember when I was about six and in the back of the Morris with my mother driving really slowly through the streets holding up all the traffic and I said 'When I grow up, I want to be a film star'. OK, I'm not a film star, but I have indulged my passion – it is everything I do."

The next step in her life was the making of her as when her mother and father retired to a small farm in Andalucia, Spain, she was sent to boarding school in Suffolk.

There was no hiding there from reading and writing, while she also took elocution lessons to make her accent sound more Queen's English than Indian. She also had curious-sounding spelling lessons with a woman who owned a parrot and lived by the seaside.

Dispelling the social perceptions that education is all, she forged a career path in the world of entertainment and started her own production company based at Chatham Dockyard in 1984.

"My daughter was four and had to go to school where we lived in Rochester, so I thought 'What do I do?'. So I started it with my ex-husband."

Opera came on the scene out of a request for help from Rochester Council eight years later and started her love for bringing opera stars from the (then) Eastern Bloc to these shores.

"Opera was a complete

Continued on page 46 »

» Features team
Editor: Dave Mairs
dave.mairs@archant.co.uk
Tel: 01303 817022

Reporter: Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk
Tel: 01303 817048

Follow us @KOSLeisure or www.kentnews.co.uk/leisure

« Continued from page 45

accident," she said. "I had no experience of opera at all apart from having done it years ago.

"Off the top of my head, which is something I cannot understand, I could hear myself thinking of opera.

"The council wanted me to come back with a plan I thought would work and they had a European theme. So I flew in the Romanian National Opera, about 200 people. Rochester went completely bonkers over it."

Seeing the impact of that show convinced her to make opera her livelihood until this day as she set out on the road with Aida, Turandot, Nabucco, Tosca, Rigolette, Norma, Nutcracker, Carmen, Madama Butterfly, Traviata, Die Fledermaus, Barber of Seville, Marriage of Figaro and much more.

While she worked under her own steam, she also worked for others on those productions, which meant things were not as fruitful as they could have been.

"The recession also played a big impact towards the end of the noughties, with the arts hit in a big way as luxuries like trips to the opera began to drop off people's radar.

"I was asked to direct some shows for a promoter.

"I ended up thinking I'm making all this money for someone else and not making any myself," she said.

"There were parts when I didn't make money and you could see audiences going down.

"In 2009 by the end of the tour you could see the audience had dropped to 50 per cent. It does attract an older audience and the older generation lost money in the recession and stopped coming. They couldn't afford to come. It has come back up a bit now."



TOUGHING IT OUT: Opera has taken a hit on audience numbers through the recession but director Ellen Kent feels things are looking healthy once again

You certainly cannot fault Kent's efforts in making her shows as enticing as possible to audiences, with all manner of things included in the cast and production.

"I have done everything from having naked women, eagles and horses, including a beautiful white stallion. I have done all sorts of things to make it attractive," she said. "My ideas are a bit unique – I suppose I'm ahead of the game with most producers.

"I do have a strange brain. I go to bed at night and wake up the next morning and have these ideas."

Many thought she had gone into retirement in 2009 following the end of a tour, but it was a hasty decision that she had never fully intended to make.

"They were saying I was going to retire, that I had closed the tour down because I was 60," she said.

"There was such a lot that was happening, we were doing back-to-back touring. I felt like I was a hamster in a cage and couldn't breath.

"I don't think people like me retire. I'm not going to retire, I'm not going to stop doing anything. I still feel like I'm 21 years old.

"I risk my entire property and life and losing everything every time I do this – that's the risk I take. I never regret it for a minute, though. I have given everyone a massive amount of pleasure."

But when it comes to the future and what next for opera there are no guesses to be made.

"I don't have an answer, really. I'm 64 now, maybe I don't have to have an answer forever," she said. "Sometimes I work 18 hours a day.

"I smoke the odd cigar and have the odd Cognac – people say 'You'll kill yourself', but I don't care.

"Your body is like a car, and my batteries are firing on all cylinders."



To advertise please call:
01303 817100

ANGEL FLEAMARKET
Angel Centre, Tonbridge TN9 1SF
8am-1pm EVERY FRIDAY • FREE ADMISSION
Lots of vintage and retro bargains, Christmas Bargains
01732 456196 • 07798876857
email: sue.carmichael@btinternet.com

HEVER CASTLE & GARDENS
Traditional Magical Christmas
30 November - 15 December (Wed - Sun)
16 - 24 December (Daily)



• Traditionally Decorated Castle • Father Christmas*† • Stories & Activities • Carousel† • Illuminated Gardens • Snowy Grotto • Christmas Shopping • Evening Specials 13; 19; 20 Dec

hevercastle.co.uk

For more information and open times call 01732 865224
Hever, Nr. Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 7NG
* Weekends, Evening Specials, Daily 16 - 24 December. † Small charge applies.

The childhood home of Anne Boleyn

book early
to avoid disappointment!

Christmas Day Lunch

Treat the whole family to a special Christmas day & let us do all the work! (No washing-up guaranteed!)

Christmas Day lunch at... THE CHARLES DICKENS £58 per person TEL:01843 603 040

Christmas Day lunch at... THE CAPTAIN DIGBY £58 per person TEL:01843 867 764

Christmas Day lunch at... THE PEGWELL BAY HOTEL £55 per person TEL:01843 599 590

Christmas Day lunch at... RESTAURANT 66 AT THE OAK HOTEL £55 per person TEL:01843 583 686

Christmas Day lunch at... THE TARTAR FRIGATE £65 per person TEL:01843 862 013

Reduced rates for children and infants. please phone the restaurant of your choice for more details.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year from THORLEY TAVERNS

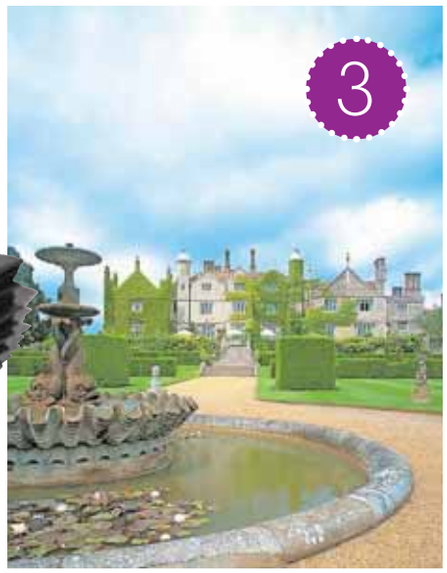
Winter Warmers

… for him, for her, and not forgetting the young ones















1 BRANDS HATCH

YoungDrive! – anyone aged 11+ can sample driving for the first time at Brands Hatch – in a brand new Mini at speeds of up to 40mph on the racetrack! Vouchers cost £79.
Call 0843 453 1000 or visit brandshatch.co.uk.

2 FRANCIS ILES

Sculptures by Suzie Marsh. Alert Hare – Bronze/Resin £105; Moongazing Hare – Bronze/Resin £105; Wilfred Mouse – Bronze/Resin £30; Tomasina on Books – Bronze/Resin £70.
Francis Iles Galleries
103 High Street,
Rochester, Kent ME1 1LX
Tel: 01634 843081
www.francis-iles.com
Mon-Sat 9.30am-5.30pm
Open every day until Christmas from 17th November

3 EASTWELL MANOR

Eastwell Manor Gift Vouchers
Choose from our extensive range of vouchers to suit every pocket. Afternoon tea, weekend breaks, luxury spa days, gym/swim/golf memberships, golf days and much more.
Vouchers can be purchased online, by phone or in person.
Call 01233 213000 or visit www.eastwellmanor.co.uk

4 LEIA LINGERIE

Fantasie Martina:
Side support bra £36, sizes D-H cup; High waisted short £22, sizes XS-2XL; Suspender brazillian £27, sizes XS-XL.
Leia Lingerie,
Upper Guild Hall, Bluewater
DA9 9SN 01322 313887
www.leialingerie.com

5 REYNOLDS FITNESS SPA

Create a spa day in Kent! Reynolds Fitness Spa has created the perfect Christmas gift, a bespoke spa package. At just £25 each item, you can add individual treatments to create a personal touch and use of the facilities to enjoy a complete spa day – spend as little or as much as you like.
Visit our website for details and more offers:
www.reynoldsgroup.co.uk/xmasgifts. Tel: 01322 522209

6 HYTHE IMPERIAL

Spa Day Gift Vouchers.
Choosing the right gift for your family or friends is easy. Whether it's a round of golf, an afternoon tea and a day at the spa. You can also purchase gift vouchers in monetary denominations.
Call 01303 267441 or visit www.mercurehytheimperial.co.uk.

Rehab and split are in the past as metal boys get all healthy

Fame brought troubling times for The Darkness but guitarist Dan Hawkins tells **Greg Miles** the band are on track again



THEY'VE still got the catsuits, but they might have dropped a size or two since we last saw them on stage.

With their enigmatic, high-pitched frontman Justin Hawkins, The Darkness are back on tour and working on a new album.

Astonishingly, it was 10 years ago that they burst on to the scene with their revival of 1980s hair metal and their Permission To Land album featuring hit single I Believe In A Thing Called Love.

The price of fame took its toll, though, as after the second album, One Way Ticket To Hell... And Back, Hawkins went into rehab and the band split in 2006.

There were several side projects for the band's members – brother of the frontman and guitarist Dan, drummer Ed Graham and bassist Frankie Poullain – before they got back together in 2011.

That led to headlining the legendary Download Festival and a world tour supporting Lady Gaga before the release of their third album, Hot Cakes, last year.

Now on the road again – they head to Folkestone next month – and rejuvenated, they are looking at releasing a fourth album next year.

"That's the plan – we're working on it at the moment," said Dan.

"We have got our heads down and written – we know from past experience it doesn't work best for us in the breaks. We've got an album's worth of stuff ready to go. It's a matter of tidying it up and recording it. It's looking good, though.

"We didn't want to wait too long for the next one – we've been back three years now. We want to strike while the iron's at least lukewarm."

With the problems that come with going to rehab behind them, they are sticking to the straight and narrow these days.

"We are a lot healthier these days – that's the main difference," said Dan. "You have to be as you get older, otherwise the machine halts.

"We mainly focus on the live stuff these days and make sure we are really fit for it.

"Frank is Mr Yoga, Justin is power fitness, I do high-cardio stuff and circuit-training and run about five miles a day. Ed has got his own schedule, which he keeps close to his chest, but it works for him.

"You have got to take care of your body and your mind. The most exercise I would have got before was on stage and half of that was trying to get rid of the hangover – it wasn't quite enough!

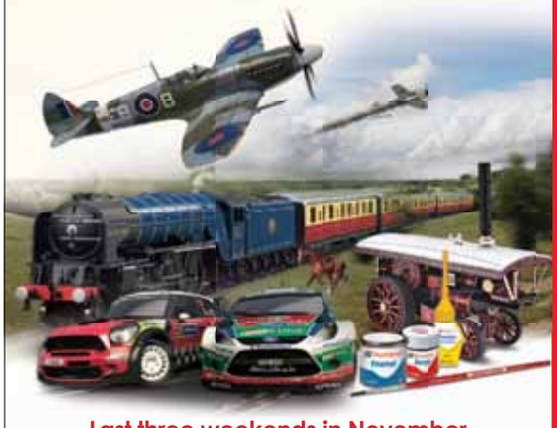
"We look a lot fitter. I look back at some of the old performances on YouTube and we were actually quite stationary compared with what we are now. It might be quite interesting at some of the smaller stages on the tour. Some of the catsuits have gone down a few sizes, too."

Dan feels the band are in a good place again after the pressures that came with the rise to fame.

"It's the same with most people – friends, relationships – you go

HORNBY®

Factory Shop Pre-Christmas Weekend Sale!



Last three weekends in November

Great deals on products – fantastic savings!

Come along to one of our two day clearance events.

Saturday and Sunday
16 & 17 November

Saturday and Sunday
23 & 24 November

Saturday and Sunday
30 November & 1 December

For more information, contact:

Tel: 01843 233524

www.hornby.com/visitorcentre

E-mail: visitorcentre@hornby.com

HORNBY CAFE

HORNBY VISITOR CENTRE

Open 7 days a week 10am – 5pm

WESTWOOD | MARGATE | KENT | CT9 4JX

On the A254 Ramsgate Road, between Westwood Cross Shopping Centre and Margate

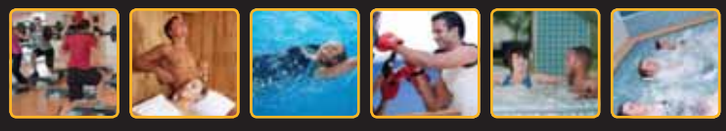
HORNBY SCALEXTRIC AIRFIX CORGI Breyer Humbrol

onelife oneclub

Bannatyne's Health Club...

more than just a gym!

and November FREE!



No joining fee* 1 month options available* Come and see us today and have a glimpse at what we can offer you. Call 0844 248 3754 now to book your appointment. Offer must end 15th November 2013!

NEW high intensity Metafit classes added to the timetable

metafit

RPM

RPM™ is the indoor cycling workout where you ride to the rhythm of powerful music.

Bannatyne's Health Club

the bannatyne S P A

www.bannatynespa.com

B Bannatyne's Health Club www.bannatyne.co.uk

Shearway Business Park, Shearway Rd, Folkestone

sales.folkestone@bannatyne.co.uk 0844 248 3754

*Terms and conditions apply. Admin fee applies.



REINVIGORATED AFTER REUNION: The Darkness, from left… Dan Hawkins, Frankie Poullain, Justin Hawkins and Ed Graham. The band have taken a healthier approach to life since getting back together in 2011.

through rocky places, and if you come back, you come back stronger.

"We were in quite a bubble at the time and working ferociously hard and not saying no to things, not just schedule-wise but intake-wise and it got the better of us.

"We needed to take a year off and get away from each other to realise."

The reaction to their comeback was quite a surprise for Dan, who admits they all thought it would be low-key.

"It's amazing to see all the fans coming out after our hiatus," he said.

"I don't think in America they had realised we had split up.

"We are playing at higher levels than we did at the peak of our first album success. We are all getting on really well, which is great.

"I think we all were thinking we would go in and tread lightly, but the offer for Download Festival came in and we thought 'Oh no!'.

"We went in at a high level. Life is too short. You have to grab the bull by the horns and go for it."

■ **The Darkness are at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone on Sunday, December 8, at 7pm.**

Tickets are available from www.atgtickets.com or by phoning 01303 228600.

Time Out Top Ten

1 Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Friday, November 29
www.atgtickets.com/folkestone

An Evening of Burlesque: Enjoy a night of choreographed cabaret. Tickets £29.50.

2 Winter Gardens, Margate
Saturday, November 30
Phone: 01843 292795
www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

Winter Wonderland: Dancing, dinner and cabaret with the Big Band Experience. Tickets £29.50.

3 The Tower Theatre, Shorncliffe
Thursday, November 28
Phone: 01303 260330

Ray Gelato Quartet: Ray Gelato, Ted Beament, Rod Brown and Val Mannix perform. Tickets £10.

4 Theatre Royal Margate
Tuesday, November 26
Phone: 01843 292795
www.theatreroyalmargate.com

Jethro: Cornish humour from the comedy great with support from singer Sean Perry. Tickets £19.50.

5 The Orchard, Dartford
Tue to Sat, November 26-30
Phone: 01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

To Sir With Love: Classic tale starring Matthew Kelly and Ansu Kabia. Tickets from £10.

6 Hazlitt, Maidstone
Friday, November 22
Phone: 01622 758611
www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk

Counterfeit Stones: Help celebrate the 22nd anniversary of Rolling Stones tribute band. Tickets £19.

7 Quarterhouse, Folkestone
Friday, December 6
Phone: 01303 858500
www.quarterhouse.co.uk

Seann Walsh: Rising comedy star with his new show The Lie-In King. Starts 8pm. Tickets £12.

8 Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
November 30-December 2
www.trinitytheatre.com

The Wizard of Oz: Production of the classic tale by Cat's Grin Theatre Company. Tickets £7.50.

9 Rochester Castle Gardens
November 30-December 1, Dec 6-8 and Dec 13-15
www.visitmedway.org

Rochester Christmas Market: Up to 100 stalls of Christmas gifts. Entry is free.

10 Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Tue to Sat, November 26-30
www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

Oklahoma: Love story set in the farmland of America, with plenty of music. Tickets £13.





It's curry to India but only if the spice is right

Greg Miles talks to Dev Biswal, Margate's Indian restaurateur who is looking to conquer the subcontinent

SELLING Indian food to India might not sound like the brightest idea, but it is one that Margate's Dev Biswal is looking to bring to fruition.

Biswal, who owns The Ambrette restaurant in the seaside town, has hit on the idea to take the best of Kent's produce combined with his culinary flair back to his home country as part of an expansion.

The 36-year-old is keen to take his twist on Indian cuisine, which does not feature the typical curries you might expect, across the county, with Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells high on his hit list.

Biswal wants to fly the flag for the county abroad, with produce from the Garden of England being the key ingredient to his success.

"Before we make India happen we would like to consolidate our position in the South East," he said.

"With any international venture things take time with issues like licensing. We are looking at partners and the legislation there.

"I would say it's an 18-month to two-year project. I was being ambitious and hoping to make it happen in 12 months, but looking at the laws it is going to take longer – it's eight months to just get a licence. It's just the way things work in the public sector there."

He will not be the first from Britain to have exported Indian cuisine back to Asia, but Biswal thinks Kent's produce will be his trump card.

"I was thinking of going to one of the cities like Mumbai or Delhi," he said. "I have looked at a couple of venues.

"Certain chefs have taken curry to India before, like tikka masala.

"It got a mixed reception – certain Indians feel the style of curry served in the UK is too different and some believe it won't take off – they're not convinced.

"What we're selling is not spices but our product on the strength of the ingredients, which are of a superb quality. It's British produce with Indian clothes on.

> **"What will help us win is the British and Kentish tag, rather than the Indian tag. We're going to have something completely different"**

"There's a demand for British and Welsh lamb at markets. I've spoken to chefs and tried to build focus groups and have had a mixed response.

"Some think it is unique and a dynamic idea and is becoming more fashionable. What will help us win is the British and Kentish tag, rather than the Indian tag. We're going to have something completely different."

Biswal trained at the Dubai Sheraton before moving to London in 2003, aged 26, for spells at Mangoes and Eriki. He opened The Ambrette four years ago and it was recently listed at No 14 in The Times Top 20 Secret UK Restaurants The Foodies Love. He then added The Ambrette at Rye to his collection.

He does not want to stop there, though, and is optimistic that he could soon be opening up in Canterbury.

"We have put our proposals through and the first round has been accepted and we are waiting to hear from the [building's] landlord in the first week in December," he said.

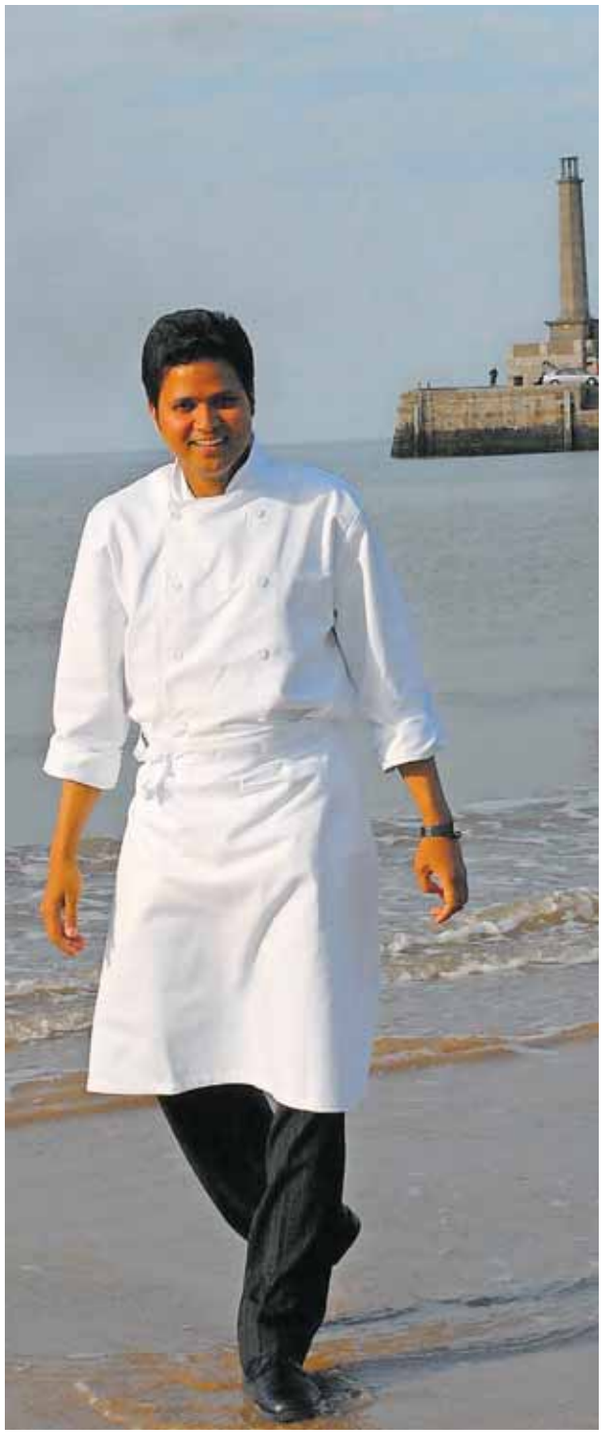
"Planning is already there, but it's a prime property in Canterbury so he needs to choose."

Biswal was convinced to head west from Thanet after a pop-up restaurant with just 90 covers in the cathedral city sold out within hours last month.

He said: "What we are looking to achieve is six units in the South East. We are rebranding at the moment. The idea is to project the restaurant as a Kentish brand. We want to fly the Kent flag in terms of produce.

"The idea is wherever we go we

Continued opposite »



THYME AND TIDE: Dev Biswal is sure his flavours will delight Indians

» For more food and drink articles pick up a copy of this month's KENT LIFE

« Continued from page 54

take Kent produce with us, be it in East Sussex or London. It's in the same way that in Scotland they embrace things like Scottish lamb and talk loudly about it.

"We want to do that in Kent.

"I would like to be in Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks as well.

"Certain Kentish towns are coming up, like Ashford – there's a massive retail scene there. These brands are putting a lot of money in and we could just follow them around.

"I believe that if we can make something work in Margate we can make it work elsewhere in the UK."

Biswal revealed he had first thought of moving into Europe rather than Kent, with places on the Continent largely still finding their feet as far as Indian cuisine is concerned.

"Kentish was not originally in the idea," he said.

"We were thinking of British and Europe, but since we started using local produce we have evolved.

"Europe might be a good option – in places like Belgium and Germany, Indian food is quite popular. There are places that haven't found their tikka masala yet – it's a virgin market. Certain cities are quite saturated, though."

Readjusting the restaurant as a mid-market affordable fine-dining experience was a no-brainer for Biswal, who feels attitudes towards eating out have changed.

"It's a sector that is robust and recession-proof," he said. "From an industry point of view, fast food and takeaways will see growth. Maybe we will do something further down the line with that. It's not my area of expertise, but we will look at it.

"We have seen a big change in the market, where people who wouldn't eat in a Nando's now eat in a Nando's. There is a big segment of health-conscious customers and people more aware of dietary requirements."

Margate originally came calling as Biswal pondered ways to cut costs while working in London.

"I was in London for a long time and I thought a change would be good," he said. "We used to buy in crab and lobster from the Kent coast for a lot of money. It was three or four times what we pay here. I thought we could do a lot once we were in the area.

> **"It's amazing how much food grows around you. Eighty per cent of the things on the menu are from around the area, including basics like oil and potatoes"**

"It's amazing how much food grows around you. Eighty per cent of the things on the menu are from around the area, including basics like oil and potatoes.

"It's very easy to get lost in London – we enjoy the privilege of not having that in Kent."

It was a tough start as he tried to win over diners who came to his restaurant in King Street expecting something very different.

As he said: "It was a massive culture shock. The pace of life was very relaxed. People would come in and expect a tikka masala and I must admit I thought this is hard work trying to educate and change perceptions.

"The good thing is it's been accepted positively by diners. When we pick ingredients from around the world, customers become our guinea pigs.

"I've had days where I've had power failures and people have come in and helped serve – it's really pleasing.

"It's those things that have made the real difference of whether we stay or go back to London – that human touch. In London you don't have that connection with customers.

"We were flooded once. People drove up and helped us take the water out."

Biswal had no desire to create just another Indian restaurant after leaving London and was taken aback by the standards he came across.

"I was a bit shocked, really. I had spent my life learning the profession and you come to the high street and it's at a different level.

"But these restaurants deserve a lot of credit because they have put Indian cuisine on the map.

"I would have been a very sad chef had I been forced to cook curries the way they are on the high street."

■ **Visit www.theambrette.co.uk for more information.**



EYES FORWARD: Dev Biswal has big plans for The Ambrette in Kent



interiors

» If you would like to see your product here, please telephone 01303 817000 or email advertising@kosmedia.co.uk

» See more interiors every month inside… KENT LIFE



Rococo silver-leaf bedside hall table
An ornate Rococo table of classic design. Three intricately-carved drawers set inside a beautifully-designed frame.
Price: £299.99 www.chichifurniture



Sedona gold cow hide
Hand-selected cow hides that are covered with metallic silver or gold paint. Will add style and class to any setting.
Price: £559 www.kelaty.com

Miss K Light by Flos
Stylish table lamps designed by Philippe Starck available in silver, red or black.
Price: £145
www.beadlecromeinteriors.co.uk



All that shimmers

Metallic materials and golden tones have maintained their grip on the interior world this year and are yet again one of autumn's hottest trends. From burnt copper to shimmering silver and antique brass, metallic tones are making our homes warm and sparkly this year.



Kew mirror
This sensational mirror has a fabulous contemporary design. The bevelled glass is surrounded by a wide-barrelled wooden frame that has an embossed metallic surface in a bright silver.
Price: £115 www.chandeliersandmirrors.co.uk



Glass and silver mirror balls
These three glass balls dusted with silver leaf are lit from the inside by fairy lights and just stunning.
A year-round light feature but a real centrepiece for Christmas.
Price: £65
www.dorisandboris.co.uk



Nextime chef clock
An award-winning, witty design that makes the perfect gift for any cook. This designer pendulum kitchen wall clock uses the design of a tin can as the clock face and a swinging whisk as its pendulum.
Price: £39 www.redcandy.co.uk



Burnt-gold vase
A mix of cool concrete effect and warm burnt gold, this vase is both on trend and very striking.
Price: £14
www.oscarandeve.co.uk



Hand-etched iron bowl
This pretty hand-etched iron bowl is made in India using a traditional, delicate design. Almost too beautiful to put anything in, it will look good anywhere in your house.
Price: £12.95 www.stuffofdreams.com

feedback

your say...

Send us your views.
Write to:
KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Rd, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SS.
Email:
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Twitter:
@kosmedia

Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Boris is peddling his own agenda

WHILE bicycling Boris Johnson spends millions in trying to rid London of private cars for so-called environmental reasons, and has special London-only emission laws for trucks, it does seem odd he promotes air travel with such vigour.

For those not residing there, we have no chance to vote for a man who determines whether or not we can travel in our own capital city.

We got rid of the old Greater London Council; now we are stuck with another bunch of resurrected dictators. London has become a sort of country within a country.

Terry Hudson, Whitstable

Speed limits to limit cycle deaths

OVER the last fortnight the tragic deaths of cyclists in London have made national headlines, but the capital's bike riders aren't alone in facing danger.

Around one in five cycling deaths in the UK happen in my constituency. It's a depressing fact that a week doesn't go by without a cyclist being hospitalised by a collision in the south east.

We shouldn't accept cycling deaths as inevitable. Indeed there are simple changes we could make which would inevitably save people's lives.

The simplest way to make cycling safer is to slow down the cars on our roads. A report by the Transport Research Laboratory found, for example, that cycling accidents fall by 29 per cent in areas with 20mph zones. If we were to slow cars on our rural roads we'd also see a drop in deaths and injuries.

We must take bold steps to improve safety and reduce this senseless waste of life.

I hope councils across the south east take note of the tragedies in London and take action to protect their residents from similar incidents.

Keith Taylor,
Green MEP for the South East

Reporter's facts are way off quay

I WAS dismayed at the article in Kent on Sunday written by Chris Murphy (Letters 16/11).

Folkestone was a major 'leave port' – not a "major port of embarkation".

And roughly three to four million soldiers crossed from Folkestone – not the 11 million stated.

Peter Anderson, Folkestone

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Unlocking key to aid dementia sufferers

I WISH to alert readers to the worrying fact there are still too many people who are living with dementia, but have never received a diagnosis.

New figures reveal across England only 48 per cent of people living with dementia ever get diagnosed, an increase of just two per cent on last year, despite government efforts to improve this.

I ask for your help as I am supporting the Alzheimer's Society campaign to raise awareness of this key issue.

A diagnosis is just as important to people who live with dementia as the key to your car or your own front door.

It unlocks access to support, information, and sometimes treatment. With the right help it is possible to live well with dementia, and a diagnosis allows people to plan for the future.

These shocking new figures show this illness is still yet to be given the same priority as other conditions.

The Government, the NHS, local GPs, and the wider public all have a role to play in helping people get the support they need.

Help us change things for the better and sign up to stay in touch at www.alzheimers.org.uk/campaignersnetwork.

Francesca Sexton,
Faversham

Horse meat not for dinner table

PRINCESS Anne's recent comments that we should consider a trade in horsemeat have sparked debate.

The implication is that by treating horses in the same way as other animals bred and slaughtered for meat, their welfare would be markedly improved, and cases of neglected or abandoned horses would decrease.

However, Animal Aid has filmed undercover in numerous farms – including so-called higher welfare units – and slaughterhouses.

Our footage showed the production, trade and slaughter of hundreds of millions of farmed animals such as chickens, pigs and cows leads to them being mistreated and abused.

Princess Anne is naïve to think horses would benefit from being commodified and processed through the meat trade.

Fiona Pereira,
Animal Aid, Tonbridge

Language barrier costs us taxpayers

I FEEL Marika Sherwood (Letters, 10/11) has deviated from the contents of Ukip Hod Birkbys' article in your November 3 edition.

I also have lived and worked abroad in another EC member state for more than 15 years.

Applications for residence permits, driving licences, social security, education, tax, judicial and health registration documents were all in the language of the administration of the region where you chose to live.

No documents were provided in any other language.

If you required the service of an interpreter/translator, then that was your own responsibility.

On return to the UK, I was astounded to find advice/application forms, provided by many services, in various foreign languages covering a wide range of subjects.

Additionally, UK administrations provided free interpretation/translation services for non-English speakers. The cost is borne by the UK taxpayer.

The cost of compulsory and free English language classes would be an additional charge on the UK tax-payer.

Any UK or non-UK resident can subscribe to an education course, but they must pay for it.

If you do not know the language or the law, then you must make the effort to learn it yourself.

Ken Scrivner, Ashford

Barnes' words wide of the mark

I READ with interest the comments made by Ann Barnes, the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (KoS, 10.11) especially regarding the savings recently made by Kent Police.

Mrs Barnes states that 500 police and 1,000 staff have, quote "walked out of the door".

Personally, I didn't walk out of the door; I and many others were pushed.

I was a civilian driver/staff officer driving the chief constable, costing the force £23,316. This full-time post was shared with a serving police officer, costing the force £45,650.

We were both equally trained and qualified to similar standards, until my dismissal.

I had driven the last two chief constables without any problems, along with members of the Royal Family and other visiting VIPs.

As for the savings, I'll let you draw your own conclusions.

Graham Driscoll, via email

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: ''We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise.'' This is summed up in the strapline 'Inspiring Communities'.

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

images of kent



Sarre Windmill

by **Thomas Webzell**
from Margate

If your picture is printed on this page you will receive an any duration **Dover-Calais return crossing for a car and up to five passengers, valid for a year**, courtesy of…

MYFERRYLINK
Owned and run by the crew

To see your photograph printed email **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk**, or post it to **Archant KOS Media, Images of Kent, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS**. Be sure to include your name, address and a contact telephone number. Unfortunately we cannot return any prints, and please do not send negatives. Note: all digital images must be no less than 200dpi.

Win a Car Dash Cam!

drive24.co.uk

Plus one of 10 Autoglym Winter Care Kits

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS STOCKING FILLER!

Drive24 has teamed up with Wilcodirect.co.uk to bring you the perfect winter car gift. We have **a Mio MiVue 338 Dash Cam and 10 Autoglym Winter Care Kits** to give away to our London and Kent readers!

First prize:

-Mio MiVue 338 Dash Cam with 8GB Micro SD memory card, worth over £100
-Autoglym Winter Care Kit including 500ml Screen Wash, 500ml De-icer, Premium Ice Scraper and Interior Microfibre Cloth, RRP £14.99
-£10 gift voucher to use at Wilcodirect.co.uk

Runner-up prizes:

-10 runners-up will receive an **Autoglym Winter Care Kit** and a **£10 Wilco Direct voucher**



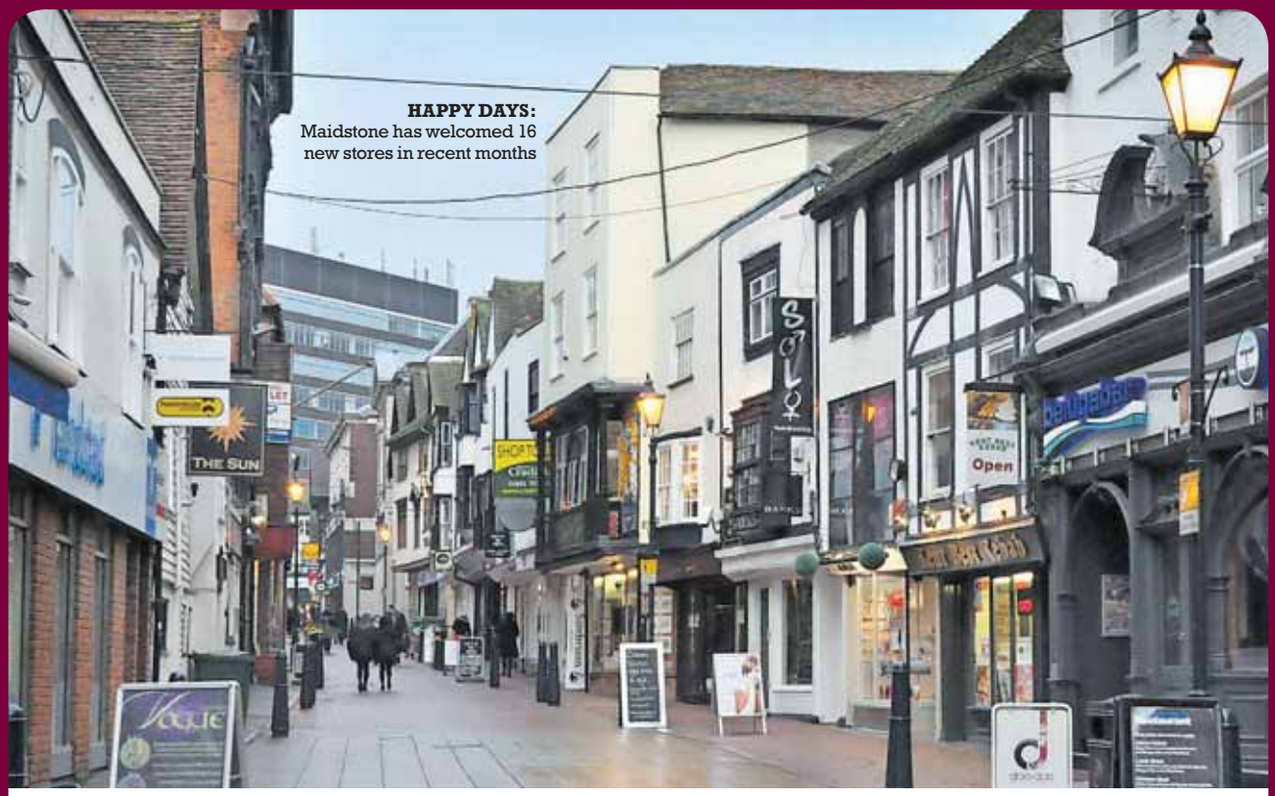
How to enter:

For your chance to win simply visit **www.drive24.co.uk** and tell us how many used cars are for sale on the site. Submit your answer, along with your name and address, through our entry form found at **http://blog.drive24.co.uk**

The competition closes on December 8th 2013. For full terms and conditions go to **http://blog.drive24.co.uk**

drive24.co.uk and WILCO DIRECT working hard to keep you motoring this winter.

business



HAPPY DAYS: Maidstone has welcomed 16 new stores in recent months

County town workers will be at home on the range

Homeware company's new store in Maidstone brings 150 jobs and increasing confidence that the retail sector is thriving. **Joe Bill** has a good-news story…

MAIDSTONE town centre is enjoying something of a renaissance despite the recession as it welcomes new stores in preparation for the busiest time of the year.

While council chiefs have invested heavily in pedestrianising parts of the county town over recent years in a bid to make it a more compelling offering, growth is now being seen on its fringes.

It has been given a huge injection of confidence with the confirmation that homeware company The Range is to move into the premises vacated by Homebase at St Peter's Wharf Retail Park on the banks of the River Medway. It will become the 16th new store to open in Maidstone in recent months.

What is more, it will create some 150 jobs in the process – with vacancies for sales assistants, warehouse staff and store managers.

For Bill Moss, head of the Maidstone Town Centre Management team, it is proof that the town is bouncing back after the recent economic downturn.

He said: "It is great news. I have experienced The Range from the store at Chatham Maritime and think it will offer something different to the town.

"It has taken up a retail building that closed a few months ago, so I am hoping the people who lost their jobs before will be able to get back into work. The rate our empty buildings get refilled just goes to show how desirable Maidstone is as a retail destination."

The owner and founder of The Range, Chris Dawson, said: "Employment plays a huge part in our company and it is crucial we get the right people in to work with us. We have been very pleased with the calibre of applicants we have had and look forward to inviting them to our already-strong workforce.

"We are heading into one of our busiest times of year and it is important we have dedicated staff on board that give 110 per cent."

The Maidstone branch becomes the fourth Range store in Kent alongside Broadstairs, Canterbury and Chatham and the group says it will continue to look at the county for more sites in an aim to open 45 new stores UK-wide within three years, creating 7,000 jobs.

Its job-creation opportunities have attracted the attention of Government ministers.

Employment minister Esther McVey said: "I was delighted to hear The Range will be creating so many jobs. This government has been clear about its commitment to promote private-sector job-creation, and this is a stellar example."

Included in the 16 new companies to have set up shop in Maidstone this year are a pet store, a Morrison's Local, an independent homeware shop and popular Japanese-inspired restaurant Wagamama.

The new Earl Street restaurant, which is Wagamama's fourth in Kent, opened last week, bringing with it 40 new jobs to the area.

Mr Moss said: "We have had 16 new retail and restaurant outlets join the town in the last few months, which has been excellent.

"We had a strong retail attraction and position in the county before the economic downturn, so we probably haven't suffered quite as much as some more provincial towns.

"But there is definitely a buzz out there – enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm. Competition between businesses is welcomed and is healthy."

If you have a business story, we would like to hear from you. Telephone on **01303 817100** or email **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.**

For more business visit **www.buinessforkent.co.uk**

» See this month's Business and Professional Life section inside…

KENT LIFE

Cripps Harries Hall. Lawyers
Business Services at MidKent College
HighGrowthKent
kta kent training and apprenticeships
Kent Channel Chamber of Commerce
FSB

Training, courses & careers

College delight as it gets royal seal of approval for training

THE QUEEN is to present MidKent College with a prestigious award at Buckingham Palace in recognition of its innovative work in training soldiers.

It will be the second time the college has won a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Further and Higher Education – the highest honour available to universities and colleges – following a previous accolade in 1998.

This time, under its subsidiary company MidKent College Training Services (MKCTS), the college has been recognised for its training offered at the Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) at Brompton Barracks in Gillingham.

Principal Sue McLeod will accept the award from the Queen at Buckingham Palace on February 27.

She said: "Our team of 200 staff has worked tirelessly to transform the delivery of training for the Royal Engineers, ensuring our military students have access to bespoke, interactive e-learning materials alongside personalised instruction.

"As a result, the majority of students will be able to progress significantly faster through their course than had previously been the case, thanks to our use of modern technology.



SUCCESS: Andrew Brader and MidKent College principal Sue McLeod

"This award is fantastic recognition of the continued efforts to make best use of the unique skills taught at the RSME."

MKCTS was set up in 2008 after MidKent College secured a contract to deliver £680 million worth of training on behalf of the Ministry of Defence.

The Royal Engineers at the RSME study a range of construction and engineering courses, with subjects including bricklaying, carpentry, plumbing and surveying.

MKCTS managing director Andrew Brader said: "We are extremely proud of how far we've come in its first five years and delighted to be recognised."

Get in the festive mood with uni

THE public are being invited to attend a festive season of programmes featuring musical ensembles from Canterbury Christ Church University.

It takes place on December 13 at Augustine House and will include performances by the Broadway Performance Choir, Symphony Orchestra, Cantata Choir, Symphonic Wind Orchestra and String Orchestra.

Tickets cost £10 and the evening begins at 7.30pm. For details, visit www.canterbury.ac.uk.

PhD students get research boost

THE Natural Environment Research Council has made a £5 million award to fund PhD students to carry out environmental research.

The award will fund 60 PhD researchers over the next five years at Environment East (EnvEast) – a doctoral training partnership between the universities of Kent, East Anglia and Essex and partners.

» What is your business doing to help our young people? If you have a good-news story, email **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **01303 817100**.

MAKING LEARNING IRRESISTIBLE



A New Exciting Primary School Opening in Chatham September 2014

You are invited to join us for the

New Horizons Primary School Parent Information Evening

Thursday 5th December 2013 at 6.00pm

At the Main Hall, Chatham Grammar School for Boys
Maidstone Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 6JB

New Horizons Primary School

For more information visit:
www.newhorizonsprimary.org.uk



CORNERING THE MARKET: The Royal Hotel in Sheerness is being treated to a £100,000 facelift

Sheppey landmark bags upgrade

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

ONE of the Isle of Sheppey's most iconic buildings is to be given a refurbishment costing more than £100,000 by brewer Shepherd Neame.

The Royal Hotel in Sheerness will become the brewery's second major investment on the island in recent years following the £350,000 relaunch of The Aviator at Queenborough.

The Broadway pub, which is in need of a new licensee, has been a landmark in the heart of Sheerness for almost 200 years. It was built in 1825 by Sir Edward Banks, who also designed Sheppey Dockyard and Waterloo Bridge.

Shepherd Neame bosses are planning contemporary décor and facilities while highlighting "traditional architectural features" such as the bar counter and back bar.

Shepherd Neame's tenant manager Greg Wallis said: "We would be delighted to receive applications from ambitious people with a flair for hospitality who can have some input into the refurbishment plans. This is a significant investment in the Sheerness economy and a great opportunity to run a business in one of the town's most high-profile, iconic buildings."



Brand new does not stay brand perfect forever

Brands are like cars – shiny when new – but they soon start to show their age. Unloved brands can ultimately let you down when you need them most, leaving you stranded on the hard shoulder while your competitors whizz past. Graeme Hall, of Tunbridge Wells-based design agency ifour, argues brands need love, attention and, finally, updating.

SOME believe that once a brand is in place, recognised and has secured a positive reputation, all the work is done and they can leave it alone.

However, as you grow and change, your company can improve its customer relationships and profitability with a brand revamp, and it should be seriously considered.

Don't assume your brand image is always right.

As times change, so should your public face. This will give you an advantage over more staid competitors.

This is also important when considering the changes made to your company.

What was right when you started out as a small business most likely won't be once you're larger and more successful – rebrands can reflect your expansion and emphasise where you are now.

They can also stimulate expansion.

As your services and products grow, a rebrand can ensure they have a one-company feel while maintaining their individuality – perhaps helping inspire new directions to investigate.

The technology sector is most well known for its rapid innovation and change, but in our fast-paced world no one can afford to dawdle. Ask yourself: can your brand keep up?



It's worth remembering your brand isn't just your logo, it's everything you do: brochures, website, newsletters or exhibition stands. Updating your brand doesn't necessarily mean changing your logo.

Once the need for a rebrand has been agreed, you need to make it happen – there is a lot to be done before you even get to the design stage, but with a little preparation you can ensure your new brand is a success.

Begin with people.

Not just your marketing and PR team, but anyone who will add value.

Once they have been selected, work begins on an identity for the current business and what you want the new brand to say about it.

You should consider all the elements that make your business what it is: from core identity and product/service to brand promise.

Do you have a positioning statement? Does the brand have a personality to be reflected? These and many other questions dependent on your business will help you to build a clearer picture.

While certain people will take charge of this process, it's also vital you involve the business as a whole in the rebrand. After all, they are the ones who will have to deliver on the promises your updated identity makes. Don't be shy of asking them for ideas.

There is much to be gained from a well-considered rebrand.

TV's Alex Polizzi ready to reveal 'the seven deadly sins of small business'

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

HOTELIER and business guru Alex Polizzi will be in Ashford this week to take part in a special mentoring event designed to help inspire small-business chiefs.

Ms Polizzi, whose grandfather was hotel giant Lord Forte, will be the star turn at the Night School mentoring evening.

The event is open to small businesses and aims to provide practical advice through expert talks and one-to-one sessions.

Ms Polizzi shot to fame on Channel 5's The Hotel Inspector show. She also fronts BBC2's The Fixer, where she tries to turn around the fortunes of struggling family businesses.

Appearing at the PopUp Ashford store in Park Mall on Tuesday, the event will see Ms Polizzi give an in-depth talk on the 'seven deadly sins of small business', followed by a question-and-answer session.

She said: "One of the biggest mistakes I see small businesses make is lethargy – sitting and waiting for customers to come to them.

"Seek out advice, find mentors – there are people who have been where you are and are very often willing to offer advice and tips."

Ashford's town team manager, Jo Wynn-Carter, said: "We are delighted to welcome such a brilliant and inspiring mentor as Alex Polizzi to Ashford. This is a wonderful opportunity for local businesses to glean invaluable advice on how to boost their business, and PopUp Ashford is the ideal location for such an exciting networking event.

"With Christmas just around the corner, this is an ideal time to gather new tips and pointers on how to make your business really boom."

For more info on how to register for the evening, email vistaprintnightschools@iris-worldwide.com.



STRICTLY SMILING: Alex Polizzi says that lethargy affects too many small businesses

Why buy a colour or mono laser printer, when you can have one for FREE

u PRINT
For the quality of print you need

Yes that's right - a FREE printer!

We'll provide you with a colour or mono laser printer, fully installed & maintained, all completely free!

Simply register and agree to purchase your replacement consumables from us – simple! Visit our website to register or call in to one of our branches today



tel **01795 421463** web **www.u-print.org**
email **u-print@cwmidkent.co.uk**
Branches at **Canterbury, Chatham, Maidstone, Sittingbourne & Strood**


THE QUAYS
CHATHAM MARITIME
GET A NEW VIEW.
STUDIOS, 1 BED AND 2 BED APARTMENTS
STARTING FROM £115,000
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE WITH 'HELP TO BUY' SCHEME, CONTACT US FOR MORE DETAILS
STYLISH LOUISA GREY DESIGNED SHOW APARTMENTS
NOW OPEN BETWEEN 10AM — 6PM, 7 DAYS A WEEK
TELEPHONE 01634 890594
POSTCODE ME4 4ZL
THEQUAYSCHATHAM.COM
AVAILABLE TO BUY WITH ONLY
5%
DEPOSIT



SHAKE ON IT! But that doesn't necessarily mean everything is done and dusted for the sale

Last-minute bidding war that could cost you dear

This week solicitor **Edward Foster** examines the highly undesirable phenomena of gazumping and gazundering and their consequences when buying or selling a property

When the sale price has been agreed between buyer and seller but the contracts have not yet been exchanged on the property, there is still the opportunity for a third party to offer the seller a higher price.

When the seller accepts this offer, and subsequently withdraws from the sale to the original buyer, the third party has 'gazumped' the original buyer.

This has severe consequences for the original buyer in that not only do they lose out on the property they wanted but they may well have incurred significant costs, including surveys and legal fees.

Furthermore, they have no redress against either of the other two parties for these sums: every sale and purchase transaction is 'subject to contract' until formal exchange of contracts takes place.

As is a common misconception, this scenario does not usually come about through the estate agent's desire to maximise their commission by obtaining a higher sale price for the property.

Yes, they are keen for you to maximise the sale price of your property, but that is what you pay them for. In actual fact, they are very much just doing their job – an estate agent has a legal duty to inform the seller of all offers made on their property. This includes offers made after another offer has been formally accepted.

An estate agent can legally give guidance but can never recommend and it is entirely at the seller's discretion as to whether they accept the higher offer or not.

It is worth noting the highest price does not always win and there are cases where a seller, having received higher offers, sticks to the original lower one because the transaction is proceeding well or they simply felt it was the right thing to do.

Also a new entrant is not always a bad thing – sometimes a 'gazumper' can save a chain.

If an original buyer is dragging their feet or looking to 'gazunder' the deal (see later), the transaction and reliant chain can quickly fall apart. However, a new buyer with the means and intent to proceed can save matters for all parties.

As a buyer, what can you do to lessen the chances of gazumping?

If you have had your offer accepted, you can stipulate that, as part of the offer, the property be removed from the agent's register with no further viewings allowed; you might also be able to negotiate an 'exclusivity agreement', where the seller effectively gives you the right of first refusal on the property for a fixed period of time.

However, some sellers prefer to keep their property on the market until exchange of contracts so that should the transaction fall through they may have a back-up buyer.

An obvious point is that in paying the asking price you show your commitment and dramatically diminish the likelihood of the occurrence of gazumping.

'Gazundering', on the other hand, is where at the last minute the buyer refuses to go ahead with the sale unless the price is reduced.

Again, there is nothing the seller can do about this apart from negotiate on the price or lose the sale.

Here the estate agent should negotiate on the seller's behalf, or, failing that, will attempt to find you a suitable new buyer with all possible haste.

Fortunately, gazundering is rare, but current market conditions dictate that there is often greater price negotiation and buyers have greater leverage.



Edward Foster is senior partner at FostersLaw.
If you have a question relating to this or any other matter, simply 'Ask Ed' by emailing him at **asked@fosters-law.co.uk**

67 High Street
Herne Bay
CT6 5LQ
Tel: 01227 283634
Web: fosters-law.co.uk

fosterslaw

» If you would like to advertise in this section, please telephone 01303 817000 or email advertising@kosmedia.co.uk

» See the county's best homes for sale inside…

KENT LIFE

» 100s of homes available for sale or to rent at homes24.co.uk



Kent's largest used BMW and Mercedes prestige dealer with over 1250 cars in group stock
TAILOR-MADE FINANCE PACKAGES AVAILABLE, CALL FOR A QUOTE

From £5000 to £40,000


Mercedes C250 Sport 5882 miles **£23,600**


BMW 118d Se **£8990 (black)**


BMW 116i, 17,910 miles **£10,900 (white)**


BMW 118i, 26,948 miles, **£13,600 (black)**


BMW 318i, 29,276 miles **£7500 (red)**


BMW 318i **£8700 (black)**


BMW 320D, 75,523 miles **£9850 (silver)**


BMW X6, 30,930 miles **£25,999**


Mercedes B180 CDI, 28,476 miles **£12,700**


Mercedes C250, 35,408 miles **£18,500 (white)**


Mercedes CLK Cab, 55,815 miles **£11,000**


Mercedes E250 Cab 16,502 miles **£25,500**


Mercedes E350 52,616 miles **£15,500**


Mercedes R350, 19,014 miles **£17,000**


Mercedes ML300, 27,746 miles **£23,500**

Sturry Road, Canterbury CT1 1DS · Tel 01227 479338

www.bigmotoringworld.co.uk

SEASONAL SAVINGS SALES EVENT

18 NOVEMBER – 24 DECEMBER

ADDITIONAL **£500**^ CONTRIBUTION

Alfa Romeo with EXPO MILANO 2015



£199 PER MONTH*

0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

ALFA GIULIETTA 1.4 TB 120 BHP TURISMO 5DR INCL. GHIACCIO WHITE PAINT

REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE

On the Road Price†	£18,255	Alfa Additional £500^ Contribution	£500	Duration of Contract	48 months	Rate of Interest (Fixed)	0.00%
Monthly Payment*	£199	Customer Deposit	£1,999	Total Amount Payable by Customer	£16,505		Representative 0.0% APR
Alfa Deposit Contribution^^	£1,250	Amount of Credit	£14,506	Optional Final Payment	£5,153		

NORTHGATE GARAGE NORTHGATE, CANTERBURY, KENT CT1 1FW
01227 829930 www.northgatealfaromeo.co.uk

Giulietta

WITHOUT HEART WE WOULD BE MERE MACHINES.

‡Model shown is Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB 120 bhp Turismo at £18,255 OTR† including Ghiaccio White special paint at £490. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa Giulietta range: Urban 26.2 - 53.3 mpg (10.8 - 5.3 l/100km); Extra Urban 48.7 - 76.3 mpg (5.8 - 3.7 l/100km); Combined 37.2 - 64.2 mpg (7.6 - 4.4 l/100km). CO_2 emissions 177 - 114 g/km.

‡Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. Factors such as driving style, weather and road conditions may also have a significant effect on fuel consumption.

*With Alfa Romeo Preferenza you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 6,000 miles per annum in these examples) and being in good condition. Offers may be withdrawn or amended without prior notification. Offer subject to status, a guarantee and/or indemnity may be required. Terms and conditions apply. Alfa Romeo Financial Services, PO Box 4465, Slough SL1 0RW. Offer applies to vehicles registered between 1 October to 31 December 2013 on Alfa Giulietta models. Terms and conditions apply.

^Additional £500 incl. VAT at 20% is valid on all new Alfa MiTo & Giulietta versions ordered between 18 November – 24 December 2013 and excludes Alfa Giulietta Model Year 2014. The £500 incl. VAT is over & above all current advertised retail offers during this period. Vehicles must be registered by 31 December 2013 and the offer can be used in-conjunction with PCP, HP or a cash purchase. Retail Sales only, excludes Fleet & Personal Contract Hire. Terms & conditions apply. Whilst stocks last.

†On the road price includes 12 months road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. Figures and prices are correct at time of publishing. Vehicles must be registered before 31 December 2013.

^^£1,250 Alfa Romeo Deposit Contribution is only available on a PCP, HP and Cash and is valid from 1 October to 31 December 2013 on selected Alfa Giulietta models. Participating dealers only. Terms and conditions apply and are subject to exclusions. Retail Sales only.

53483

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk







Spaceback's Rapid appeal

1st Drive

Skoda Rapid Spaceback

Price:	**from £14,340**
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★ ★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	**VW Golf**

» Read more of Steve's motoring reviews in…
KENT LIFE

» For more cars visit
drive24.co.uk
motors.co.uk Powered by

HAS Skoda wrapped itself in a fix with the Rapid?

The standard Rapid arrived earlier this year – a capacious, affordable saloon-cum-hatchback to slot in below the highly successful Octavia.

And the VW-owned Czech brand has now followed up both cars with a Rapid spin-off called the Rapid Spaceback.

You'll be thinking: "Ah, that'd be an even more spacious Rapid or an estate, then." Wrong.

The Spaceback is shorter, more upmarket, pricier and sexier than its sister and, while the idea of a standard 'rapid Rapid' was dismissed by Skoda, a sporty vRS Rapid Spaceback is definitely on the cards.

Despite Skoda's marketing confusion, the new five-door Spaceback is impressive, with more than a passing resemblance to an Audi A3 Sportback – for much less money.

Prices start at £14,340 for turbocharged petrol 1.2TSI versions, one of my favourite Volkswagen Group engines. It's affordable, lively and low in CO_2 and, depending whether it's the 86PS (84bhp) or 105PS (103bhp) variant, costs as little as £30 a year to tax, with zero to pay in year one.

With an official combined cycle as low as 57.7mpg, it will also save you money at the pumps.

While its 90PS (99bhp) 1.6TDI diesel equivalent looks a better bet at first with similar performance and superior economy (74.3mpg combined) and road-tax-exemption through just 99g/km of CO_2 emissions, prices for that start at £17,195. That's OK for company-car user-choosers, but private punters must do many miles to claw back the higher upfront cost though better economy.

The diesel's impressive, though, all the more so when fitted with the VW group's excellent twin-clutch DSG box (£1,160) – the auto transmission that really can be driven as a manual. I tried this in mid-range SE trim and it really does feel sophisticated, not as much as a VW Golf or Audi A3 but for considerably less money.

Star of the driving day, though, was the 122PS (120bhp) 1.4TSI petrol unit: bags of power (0-62mph in 9.4 seconds) yet able to average more than 45mpg; this creates a car for all situations, showing the Spaceback is a good driver's car as well as a sensible family motor with good rear head and legroom.

Despite the reduction in size against the standard Rapid, it's also a good load-carrier with a 415-litre boot that extends into a 1,380-litre cargo space with rear seats down – that compares with 380 and 1,270 respectively for the Golf.

Generally, the Spaceback conveys more road noise than I would like, but the robust and roomy interior is a big plus and, though Skoda has priced its fastback looks higher than the standard Rapid, it does have smart customisation options up its sleeve.

Most notable are the extended tailgate glass and panoramic roof – part of the £1,100 Style Pack – linking neatly with a rear spoiler to create a sporty look that will surely be standard on a vRS model.

And while Skoda may have learned more about how to package a car and win hearts, it retains the nous that won minds as customer service and value champion – even if prices are edging up.

Proof here are 'Simply Clever' conveniences such as double-sided boot floor and the ice-scraper housed inside the fuel filler cap – quick to find and put back for next time.

Other **view...**

the Petrolhead
I like the vRS models, but there's still no street cred in driving Skodas, even if they are closer to being VWs and Audis

the Woman Driver
I'm sorry, but you can tell me over and over again that it's a VW under the skin, but I still won't be seen driving a Skoda

the Eco-warrior
Skoda doesn't do hybrids or electric yet, but it's very eco-aware and this Spaceback range is environmentally friendly

For 6 days only, an unmissable offer across our entire Approved Used range.

Approved Used

28 November to 3 December 2013.

For this limited time, all Approved Used Mercedes-Benz models come with £1000* towards the deposit and 9.9% APR Representative†. What's more, there's up to 2 years' free servicing^ and £200 towards Mercedes-Benz Motor Insurance too††.

Contact us today for more details of this outstanding offer.



2010 A160 CDI
Cosmos Black Metallic, Manual, 37,374 miles
£8,491



2013 A180 BlueEFFICIENCY
Universal Blue, Automatic with Tiptronic, 4,187 miles
£20,993



2008 C200 KOMPRESSOR
Obsidian Black Metallic, Automatic, 56,935 miles
£9,695



2012 CLS350 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY
Iridium Silver Metallic, Automatic, 23,883 miles
£28,094



2011 E220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY
Obsidian Black Metallic, Automatic with Tiptronic, 24,403 miles
£23,690



2010 ML350 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY
Tenorite Grey Metallic, Automatic, 71,236 miles
£22,690

Mercedes-Benz of Ashford Monument Way, Ashford, TN24 0HB
0844 659 8429 www.mercedes-benzofashford.co.uk

Mercedes-Benz of Maidstone Bircholt Road, Maidstone, ME15 9YN
0844 659 8433 www.mercedes-benzofmaidstone.co.uk

Mercedes-Benz of Tonbridge Vale Rise, Tonbridge, TN9 1TB
0844 659 8436 www.mercedes-benzoftonbridge.co.uk

Mercedes-Benz

†9.9% APR Representative and *£1000.00 finance deposit contribution available on all Approved Used vehicles over 90 days old at point of finance activation. Based on a fixed rate of 8.9%. Guarantees may be required. Representative APR based on a 36 month Agility agreement with an average balance financed of £19,550. Credit subject to status by Mercedes-Benz Financial Services UK Ltd, MK15 8BA. ^Service Care offer example is based on 1 service per year. Offer covers two consecutive services from point of purchase. Available at any official Mercedes-Benz Retailer. ††Persons must be over 17 and under 84 years of age and have a fixed UK address. Available on Approved Used vehicles which are a minimum of 90 days old at point of finance and are financed on a Mercedes-Benz Finance agreement. A minimum premium of £250.00 will apply after deduction of all discounts. We may decline to quote/provide cover in some circumstances. If the customer has a cancellation fee from their current insurer to cancel their policy, Mercedes-Benz Insurance will contribute up to £50.00 towards that fee when proof of the fee is provided. No cash alternative is available. Customers cannot transfer the contribution to other motor insurance policies, even if this is a multi-vehicle policy. If the policy is cancelled during the 12 months, normal cancellation terms and conditions apply, however the pro-rata amount refunded will exclude the contribution. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Insurance underwritten by Aviva Insurance Ltd. Available on all Approved Used vehicles credit approved between 28.11.2013 and 03.12.2013. Finance contracts, Service contracts and Insurance policies must be activated by 15.12.2013. Prices correct at time of going to print.





A QUICK MOVER: VW-owned Seat has given its new Leon an eye-catching look and uses the German car-maker's design to give it a more logical interior

Leon puts Seat back on track

Sporting Spaniard drives Seat's fortunes with a potent mix of VW Golf underpinnings and design flair – the best Leon so far, says our impressed motoring editor **Steve Loader**

SEAT has struggled to find its niche in the VW empire.

Obsession with sportiness had not been the sales winner the Spanish marque hoped for and the marketing seemed confused at times anyway – why did it produce the one-off rugged Freetrack 4x4 MPV, for instance?

But the brand turned a corner this year. It sold more cars during the new registration month of September than in any other month during its 28-year UK history and followed up on a best-ever half-year performance (January to June).

A wider range including the excellent Mii city car and Toledo saloon/hatch – one of the best family-car bargains around – has helped, but the real surge came from the third-generation Leon launched earlier this year.

Always more than a clone of the VW Golf, it does more to define its own qualities and that of Seat this time. It also confirms a nagging doubt about its predecessor – that the styling inside and out was just too radical.

The new car manages to be both eye-catching and crowd-pleasing, with a sharply detailed front end and sporty side creases, plus a neat interior.

For the first time, the five-door has also been joined by a racy three-door SC model – keeping Seat's sporty customers onside – and a dramatic yet versatile ST estate arriving early next year. Both contribute to the Leon's new-found popularity and confirm that looks and value are a winning combination.



Leon prices start at £15,550 for the SC and £15,850 for the five-door – not bad for a car that is effectively the latest and greatest VW Golf beneath the skin.

Sure, the Leon lacks some of the VW's big-car feel and refinement, but we are talking small increments here and not enough to justify the £1,000 or so premium for an equivalent Golf.

In fact, you wonder if the VW group has shot itself in the foot for allowing such a good-looking Golf rival to emerge. And that goes for the interior, too, which was a spartan and unwelcoming place to be in the old Leon.

The new cabin is more VW, with a logical and well-made layout, including an excellent infotainment touchscreen. There is also ample space for the rear passengers plus a decent boot despite the car's racy lines.

There are big gains on-road, too. The old car's competition success gave it a big profile with sporting drivers and the new car, using VW's new lightweight MQB platform, delivers all the handling skills of before and more while adding greater ride comfort.

Our test car was an 2.0 150 PS (148bhp) in sporty and upmarket FR trim (£21,565) – a Cupra sporting flagship arrives soon, too – and this is lively yet refined.

But the strength of the Leon range is that you won't feel short-changed by buying in at the bottom end; I still think the 105PS (103bhp) 1.2 TSI petrol-entry variant is the best model pound for pound.

It's light and nimble, achieving 62mph in 10 seconds, and costs just £30 a year in road tax after year one while returning an official combined 57.6mpg.

Ironically, the least exciting Leon is also the likely best-seller due to its appeal to company-car-drivers: the 105PS 1.6TDI diesel (from £17,550) offers road-tax-exempt 99g/km of CO_2 emissions and a combined mpg of 74.3, but it's the only Leon with a five-speed gearbox and feels like it should have a sixth.

At almost £2,000 more than petrol equivalents, private buyers would also need to cover many miles to make fuel savings against the higher purchase price.

Seat Leon 2.0TDI 150PS FR

Price:	£21,970
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£20 (zero year one)
Best rival:	VW Golf

Kent dealers

Barretts:
Canterbury 01227 864444

Hidsons:
Rainham 01634 235191

Hollis Motors:
Dover 01304 206710

KEA

FirstGEAR
Motoring news

Win a car dash cam



OUR motoring website **drive24** is giving you the chance to win a Mio MiVue Dash Cam, complete with 8GB memory card, Autoglym Winter Care Kit and a £10 Wilcodirect voucher – worth more than £130 in total.

The Dash Cam, pictured, is your eyewitness on the road in the event of an accident.

Ten runners-up will also receive an Autoglym Winter Care Kit and a £10 Wilco Direct voucher.

To enter, visit **www.drive24.co.uk** and tell us how many used cars are for sale on the site. Submit your answer, along with your name and address, through our entry form found at **http://blog.drive24.co.uk**.



Jeep bests 4x4s

AS winter bites, 4x4 Magazine's experts have spotlighted the best cars to cope with the season's worst.

Overall winner in the magazine's annual awards was the Jeep Wrangler – rough, tough descendant of the legendary Second World War runabout – commended for value, comfortable interior, off-roading, towing prowess and iconic design.

But the 'Best Mini 4x4' award to the Fiat Panda 4x4 showed that you don't have to go large to win against winter.



Next-gen Qashqai

NISSAN has confirmed that its second generation of the mould-breaking and big-selling Qashqai – the original crossover between family hatch, SUV and MPV – will arrive in January priced from £17,595.

It will also have outstanding green credentials, with CO_2 emissions ranging from a road-tax-exempt 99g/km to a modest maximum of 132g/km.

The Japanese marque says the new Qashqai will also set new levels of quality and safety.

Kent on Sunday

jobs24.co.uk
IN-PAPER • ONLINE • ON MOBILE

TO ADVERTISE:
TELEPHONE:01303 817056
EMAIL: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk
ONLINE: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

Public Sector

TO ADVERTISE:
EMAIL: sallie.payne@archant.co.uk

Schools Direct
Working Together Shepway Teaching Schools Alliance and CCCU

Schools Direct Teacher Training at Shepway Teaching Schools

Could you be an outstanding and inspiring teacher?
Do you have a good degree?
Do you want to develop your teaching skills in a supportive school environment?
Then School Direct is the training route for you.....

Shepway Teaching School has 30 primary placements in primary schools across the district for training through school direct in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University and secondary placements in English, History, P.E., Maths, Science, Physics, Biology, and Chemistry.

For further information about the courses and schools and to apply, go to the UCAS website.
www.ucas.com
Applications open on
Thursday 21st November 2013.

Shepway Teaching Schools is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. These posts are subject to an enhanced CRB check

Working in partnership to train tomorrow's outstanding teachers

Shepway Teaching School, Unit 31a, Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Road, Folkestone, CT19 4RH
Tel: 01303 298266 E-Mail: office@shepwayts.co.uk
Website: www.shepwayts.co.uk

Guardian Homecare
Passion for Independence, Respect for Choice

Care Workers
All areas of Gillingham

- Competitive rates of pay
- Flexible working hours
- FREE Training
- 28 days' paid annual leave (pro rata)
- No previous experience necessary
- Good written and spoken English

Own transport is important

Guardian Homecare is a leading provider of care support services to vulnerable older people and people with disabilities living in their own homes.

For an application pack contact Frances on 01634 264 611 or email frances.sutherland@guardianhomecare.co.uk

Guardian Homecare is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Industrial Operatives
required Dungeness Power Station Outage - Feb 2014

Industrial Cleaning & Firewatching, CSCS/CCNSG Card preferred, candidates to undergo an enhanced CRB check. Pay £10.75ph

Call 01132238207 / Email CV luke@logicalps.com

LOGICAL Personnel Solutions

FIND ANYTHING WITH SMALL ADS

To advertise in this section 01303 817056

Link Education
Are currently recruiting TEACHERS

Primary & Secondary Teachers Urgently required - day to day & long term posts

ALL KENT & LONDON BOROUGHS

Call and speak to one of our dedicated experienced Consultants

REC Est 2000 (ago) 01689 878565
www.link-education.co.uk

MOT Tester / Vehicle Technician
Wanted for immediate start

We are looking to recruit an MOT Tester to join our busy family run company in Chatham.

You must be a fully qualified class 4 Smart Card holder. In addition , class 1,2,3 & 7 would be an advantage but not necessary.

You must have a current driving licence, be aged 21 + and you will need to have good customer service skills.

A CV will be required upon application.

43 hrs per week including alternate Saturdays which is a 1/2 day.

Salary £23,000 - £26,000 depending on experience

Please contact the office manager on 01634 406664

jobs24
in paper, online and on your mobile



jobs24.co.uk/mobile

spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff.

BUSINESS OFFICE MANAGER – Full time

This position will be based at our Dover offices but travel to Margate and Ashford is an essential part of this role. Management Qualification and two years Management experience is essential. Excellent customer services and networking skills are also required for this role.
To discuss this opportunity and benefits or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:
David Osborne – Business Development Director on 01304 245942

For job description and application form please contact:
Mandy Oliver
East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Private Hospital
2nd Floor, Atina House, Bench Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1JH

Telephone: 01304 245946
Fax: 01304 207320

E-mail: mandy.oliver@spencerhospitals.com

Alternatively you can download an application form and job description from our website www.spencerprivatehospitals.com

Closing date for applications 30th November 2013

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a Data & Barring Service Disclosure check

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Intended Land Disposal Local Government Act 1972 Section 123 (2A)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council intends to dispose of the freehold interest in two areas of land, which are for identification purposes described in the schedule to this notice.

This notice is given in so far as the areas of land consist of or form part of an open space within the meaning of the above Section.

A plan of the land is available to view at the Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AB or at the Weald Information Centre, The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook TN17 3HF.

Objections to the proposed disposals must be made in writing to the Legal Services Manager, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge wells, Kent TN1 1RS by not later than 13th December 2013.

SCHEDULE

Land at Woolley Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 0EJ (also known as Prospect Road) (approximately 0.04 hectares)

Land to the south west side of Valance View, Mill Lane, Frittenden, Cranbrook, TN17 2DP. (approximately 0.02 hectares)

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager
Dated: 21st November 2013

Licensing Act 2003
Application for a premises Licence

Take notice that Mr Jaswinder Thandi has made an application in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 for a premises licence for
The 6 O' Clock Shop.
231 Beechings Way Gillingham Kent ME8 6SP

The application is to : Sell Alcohol
Mon-Sat 8am -8pm Sun 8am-4pm.

This application has been made to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR. Full details of the application and plans can be viewed at Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR during normal hours of business. Any interested party who wishes to make a representation about this application should do so in writing to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR or by sending an email to licensing@medway.gov.uk no later than 18th December 2013. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application which, upon conviction, carries a maximum fine of £5000.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Probulk (Haulage) Ltd of Little Angley Farm House, Glassenbury Road, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2QJ is applying for a licence to use Unit 3 Ryarsh Park, Roughetts Road, Ryarsh, West Malling, Kent ME19 5RP as an operating centre for 4 goods vehicles and 4 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice.

A guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Canterbury City Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2014

(ii) **Central Premium, Canterbury –**
Holman's Meadow, Queningate, Watling Street (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 7am and 9pm daily:

Minimum fee	70p
Per hour	£1.50

NOTE 1: Watling Street car park will be free after 6pm on Thursday.

(iii) **Central, Canterbury –**
Castle Row, Longport, Millers Field, North Lane, Northgate, Pound Lane, Rosemary Lane, St Radigund's and Station Road West (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 7am and 9pm daily:

Minimum fee	70p
Per hour	£1.20

Castle Street
Between 7am and 11pm daily:

Minimum fee	70p
Per hour	£1.20

NOTE 1: Lost ticket charge for Castle Street £20

NOTE 2: Release fee for Castle Street £50

NOTE 3: North Lane and Station Road West car parks have free parking for up to 20 minutes in specified marked bays.

(iv) **Recreation Ground Car Parks, Canterbury –**
Toddlers Cove and Victoria Recreation Ground (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 7am and 9pm daily:
Toddlers Cove

Up to 2 hours	10p
Over 2 hours an hourly rate of	£1

Victoria Recreation Ground

Up to 3 hours	10p
Over 3 hours an hourly rate of	£1

(v) **Other Canterbury car parks –**
Cow Lane, Kingsmead and Maynard Road (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 7am and 9pm daily:

Up to 5 hours	80p**
5 to 24 hours	£2.20
Kingsmead Leisure Centre	
Up to 3 hours	£1**

**This fee for the Kingsmead and Kingsmead Leisure Centre car parks will be refunded on admission to users of the Kingsmead Leisure Centre. Motorcycles will be free of charge.

(vi) **Long Stay, Herne Bay –**
Beach Street, King's Road* and Market Street (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 8.30am and 8pm:

Minimum fee	30p
Per hour	60p
Maximum charge	£3

*Not available on Saturday, some Sundays and Bank Holidays as a car park.

School Lane, Herne and Reculver Towers, Reculver (Motor cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 8am and 6pm daily:

Up to 30 minutes	20p
30 minutes to 2 hours	40p
2 to 24 hours	£1

(vii) **Short Stay, Herne Bay –**
William Street (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:

Minimum fee	40p
Per hour	80p

A maximum fee of £2.40 is refunded upon admission to those persons using Herons Leisure Centre.

(viii) **Neptune** (Motor Cars only)
Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:

Minimum fee	40p
Per hour	80p

Neptune (Motor Cars with Trailers or trailers only)
Good Friday to 30 September

Any period	£11

Neptune (Motor Cars with Trailers or trailers only)
1 October to Maundy Thursday

Any period	£1.80

(ix) **Whitstable Short Stay –**
Gladstone Road, Gorrell Tank, Keam's Yard, Middle Wall, Shaftesbury Road and Victoria Street (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:

Minimum fee	40p
Per hour	90p

(x) **Whitstable Harbour –**
Harbour (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:

Up to 30 minutes	60p
30 minutes to 1 hour	£1
1 to 2 hours	£3
Over 2 hours	Penalty Charge incurred

Oyster (Motor Cars etc)

Up to 30 minutes	60p
30 minutes to 1 hour	£1
1 to 3 hours	£3
3 to 5 hours	£3.50
5 to 24 hours	£4.60

NOTE: The Harbour car park is not available for holders of Whitstable Business User or Residents' Permits.

(xi) **Whitstable Long Stay –**
Tankerton Road (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 8.30am and 8pm

Minimum fee	30p
Per hour	60p
Maximum charge	£3

(xii) **Other Whitstable –**
Whitstable Swimming Pool
Between 7am and 10pm daily:

Up to 3 hours	£1**

**NOTE 1: This fee will be refunded on admission to users of the Swimming Pool.

NOTE 2: The Swimming Pool car park is not available for holders of Whitstable Business User or Residents' Permits.

(xiii) Park and Ride Service
New Dover Road, Sturry Road and Wincheap, Canterbury

per day or part thereof	£3

(xiv) Charges for Public Service Vehicles and Commercial Vehicles exceeding 2.5 tonnes unladen weight (as permitted):
Canterbury Coach Park and Kingsmead car park

Per 12 hours	£15

William Street and Neptune, Herne Bay and Tankerton Road, Whitstable

per day or part thereof	£3

(xv) All other car parks — Free
(Except those referred to in Part A (xi))

(xvi) **Permits – all prices are per annum and inclusive of VAT**
Business User

Canterbury reserved space	£843
Canterbury	£665
Castle Street	£775
Herne Bay and Whitstable	£112
Whitstable Harbour	£90

Accommodation permits – available at £2 each and a Canterbury 24 hour permit available at £6 each with minimum purchases of 10 and 10% discount if 50 or more are purchased.

Residents' off peak permit (limited) (available for residents to park a specified vehicle between 5pm on one day and 9am on the following day and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays in all car parks except for Watling Street, Castle Street, Whitefriars, Kingsmead Leisure Centre and the Park and Ride car parks) £156

Residents' off-street permit (full) (available for residents to park a specified vehicle at any time in all car parks except for Watling Street, Castle Street, Whitefriars, Kingsmead Leisure Centre and the Park and Ride car parks) £560

Castle Street Residents' permit £575

Station Road West car park rail user permit available for rail season ticket holders to park on Mondays to Fridays £88 per month

Residents' permit for residents of Herne Bay and Whitstable for the parking of motor cars in all car parks in Herne Bay and Whitstable respectively other than Whitstable Harbour and the Swimming Pool car parks. £112

School Lane Residents Permit for the parking of a motor car in School Lane car park, Herne £112

(xvii) Pay and Display payment card
Discount of 10% for all pay and display car parks

(xviii) Park and Ride payment card
Discount of 20% for all Park and Ride car parks

(xix) Neptune car park parking card, Herne Bay (for commercial fishermen and regular users to park at any time in that car park).
50% discount rate of normal fee

(xx) Administration Fee
£10 per amendment

(xxi) Penalty charge – payable in the event of non or insufficient payment of above fees or any breach of the Order.
£70 or £50 PROVIDED that the penalty charge shall be reduced to £35 or £25 if payment is received by the Director of Resources within 14 days of the date on which the penalty charge was issued (or any other amount recommended by the Secretary of State for the time being and approved by Members of the Council.)

(NOTE: The above charges apply **every** day of the week including Bank Holidays unless stated).

Any of the car parks listed above, or parts thereof, may be closed by the Council when required for a purpose of the Council or authorised by them.

A copy of the draft Order and the statement of reasons may be examined at the Council's Offices as follows:

Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent.	Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm
Herne Bay Divisional Office, William Street, Herne Bay	Monday to Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm Saturday 9.30am to 1pm

If you wish to object to the proposed order, you should send the grounds for your objection, in writing, to the undersigned so as to arrive by 9am on 16 December 2013.

Dated this 24th day of November 2013.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

Canterbury City Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Canterbury City Council proposes to make the above Order under Sections 32 and 35 of and Parts III and IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, with the consent of the Kent County Council under Section 39(3) of the said Act of 1984.

PART A

(i) The Order relates to the following car parks: Albin's, Beach Street, Bisson's, Black Griffin Lane, Castle Row, Castle Street, Chapel Street, Council Offices (Staff and Visitors), Cow Lane, Essex Street, Faversham Road Seasalter, Fountain Street, Franklyn House, Sturry, Gladstone Road, Gorrell Tank, Hampton Pier, Hawks Lane, Holman's Meadow, Keam's Yard, Kingsmead, Kingsmead Leisure Centre, King's Road, Longport, Market Street, Marlowe Theatre, Maynard Road, Memorial Park Herne Bay, Middle Wall, Millers Field, Neptune, New Dover Road Park and Ride, New Street, Northgate, North Lane, Notley Street, Orange Street, Oyster, Pound Lane, Queningate, Reculver Drive, Reculver Towers, Regent Street, Riverside Children's Centre, Rosemary Lane, Rye's, Salt Marsh Lane, St John's Lane, St Peter's Grove, St Radigund's, School Lane, Shaftesbury Road (North and South), Southern Way, Station Road West, Sturry Road Park and Ride, Swalecliffe Avenue, Sydenham Street, Tankerton Road, Tower Way, Toddlers Cove, Victoria Recreation Ground, Victoria Street, Watling Street, Whitefriars, Whitstable Harbour, Whitstable Swimming Pool, William Street, Wincheap Park and Ride, Windsor House and Canterbury Coach Park.

(ii) Unless otherwise stated the above car parks are only available for use by:

(a) Motor Cars and Solo Motor Cycles

(b) Private light goods vehicles not exceeding 1.5 tonnes unladen weight and

(c) Minibuses and Motor Caravans if they fit within a marked bay

and the maximum period of waiting is 24 hours; except that where specifically delineated bays are available in car parks they are to be used only by a disabled person's vehicle displaying a disabled person's badge for a maximum of three hours in Pay and Display car parks on a free of charge basis after which payment must be made. The accompanying clock must also be set to the time of arrival and displayed. The disabled parking permit that is available in exceptional circumstances for those in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (Mobility Component at the Higher Rate) who live and/or work in the City subject to an administration charge of £12.50 (inclusive of VAT) will be discontinued for any new applicants.

(iii) St Radigund's car park, Canterbury is available for public service vehicles displaying a permit issued by the Council and by motor cars and by private light goods vehicles not exceeding 1.5 tonnes unladen weight and by minibuses and motor caravans not exceeding 5.5m in length.

(iv) The maximum period of waiting in the Kingsmead Leisure Centre car park, Canterbury, is three hours in any 12 hour period and it is available for minibuses, motor cars, motorcycles, private light goods vehicles and public service vehicles in the bays provided.

(v) Canterbury Coach Park, Canterbury, is available for coaches, public service vehicles, minibuses and motor caravans. The Kingsmead car park will be used as an overflow coach park when necessary.

(vi) Gorrell Tank car park, Whitstable, is available for motor cars and private light goods vehicles and market traders' vehicles not exceeding 2.5 tonnes unladen weight, except for maintenance vehicles used in connection with the Pumping Station. It will become a short stay car park.

(vii) Orange Street car park, Canterbury, is only available for vehicles displaying a disabled person's badge. It will be limited to a maximum stay of 24 hours.

(viii) Chapel Street car park, Herne Bay, is available for vehicles displaying a disabled person's badge during the day on Mondays to Saturdays and for vehicles displaying a residents' permit overnight and on Sundays.

(ix) William Street car park, Herne Bay, is available for coaches, public service vehicles, motor cars, private light goods vehicles and commercial vehicles.

(x) Neptune car park, Herne Bay, is available for motor cars, private light goods vehicles, public service vehicles and vehicles with trailers and trailers in the bays provided.

(xi) Albin's, Bisson's, Black Griffin Lane, Essex Street, Fountain Street, Hawk's Lane, New Street, Notley Street, Regent Street, Rye's, St John's Lane, St Peter's Grove, Salt Marsh Lane, Southern Way, Sydenham Street and Tower Way car parks are available for any period for vehicles displaying a residents' parking permit purchased from the Council. The permits are purchased annually and last for one year. They may not be available for those who hold an on-street parking permit. The cost of the residents' parking permits in respect of the car parks within Canterbury is £340 per annum and £88 per annum for those in Whitstable except for the Sydenham Street car park which is £20 per annum (all inclusive of VAT). A card for sites with barrier controlled access is available at a fee of £30. Franklyn House, Sturry and Windsor House, Whitstable car parks are available for permit holders only.

(xii) The Council Offices staff car park will be available to persons resorting to the Council Offices for employment purposes in the spaces indicated who are displaying a valid permit issued by the Council for that car park and on Saturdays and Sundays only, for the public. The definition of a staff parking permit will be removed. Solo motorcycles or motorcycles with side cars may also be parked in the spaces indicated. The Council Offices visitor car park is available to persons resorting to the Council Offices for business purposes for a maximum of four hours unless a special permit is displayed.

(xiii) Tankerton Road car park is also available for public service vehicles in the bays provided.

(xiv) Whitstable Swimming Pool car park is available for motor cars, minibuses and private light goods vehicles. The parking fee is no longer refunded to users of the adjacent ten pin bowling facility. Car parking will be limited to a maximum stay of three hours.

(xv) Holders of a business users reserved space permit are allowed to park their vehicles in Hawks Lane, Pound Lane, Rosemary Lane, St John's Lane and St Radigund's car parks. The holders of business users permits are able to park in any Canterbury pay and display car park except for North Lane, Pound Lane, Queningate and Watling Street car parks. The holders of a Castle Street business user permit may park in that car park between 7am and 11pm on any day.

(xvi) The holders of a Herne Bay Business User permit are allowed to park their vehicles in Beach Street, King's Road, Market Street, Neptune and William Street car parks.

(xvii) Holders of a Whitstable Business User permit are allowed to park their vehicles in Gladstone Road, Gorrell Tank, Keam's Yard, Middle Wall, Shaftesbury Road, Tankerton Road and Victoria Street car parks.

(xviii) Canterbury market trader permits will be available for use in the Maynard Road car park on Wednesdays or Fridays free of charge. The Longport car park will no longer be available for this purpose. A Herne Bay Market Trader Permit is also available for use in the William Street Car Park on Saturdays at a cost of £32 per annum. A Whitstable Market Trader permit is also available for use in Gorrell Tank car park on Thursdays at a cost of £32 per annum (all prices inclusive of VAT).

(xix) Canterbury Accommodation permits will be able to be used in any pay and display car park except for Watling Street car park.

(xx) Worshippers permits will be discontinued.

(xxi) Longport, Northgate and Station Road West car parks will become central car parks and the definition of an outer car park will be removed.

(xxii) Pay and display tickets will not be able to be re-used in other Council car parks.

(xxiii) The 12 hour maximum stay provision for central premium and central car parks will be removed.

(xxiv) Any person who has an outstanding penalty charge notice against them will not be granted any permit for use in the Council's car parks. Permits are only available on production of a valid full driving licence.

PART B

The Order provides the following scale of charges with effect from 1 April 2014:

Car Park		Charge
(i)	**Whitefriars** (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)	
	Between 6am and 6pm:	
	Sunday to Friday:	
	Minimum fee	£1.70
	Per hour	£1.70
	Saturdays:	
	Minimum fee	£3.40
	Per hour thereafter	£1.70
	Over 5 hours	£20
	Between 6pm and 12 midnight:	
	Any period	£1.70
	(No entry after 12 midnight)	

NOTE 1: Lost ticket charge £20

NOTE 2: Shop mobility users may park for up to three hours free of charge

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 (AS AMENDED)

KCC/CA/0322/2013 – Proposed development at Joy Lane Primary School, Joy Lane, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 4LT

Kent County Council Property & Infrastructure Support is applying to Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for planning permission for the proposed extension of the existing infant building to provide two classroom spaces and general purpose office/WC/ welfare facilities. The development site is in close proximity to, and may affect, a public right of way.

You may view this application at Canterbury City Council, Canterbury Main Office, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW.

KCC/TM/0316/2013 – Proposed development at Blaise Farm Quarry, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4PN

New Earth Solutions Group Ltd is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for an ancilliary bio-gas to grid compound with associated plant and infrastructure and connection to the mains gas supply network.

You may view this application at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 24 November 2013

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/1108/SH† - 75 High Street Hythe Kent CT21 5AJ - Change of use and conversion of first and second floors, as well as part of ground floor, from office space to four self-contained flats

Y13/1057/SH†* - Meadow View Blackhouse Hill Hythe Kent CT21 5UN - Outline planning application for the erection of a detached two-storey dwelling

Y13/1101/SH - 6 Radnor Cliff Folkestone Kent CT20 2JN - Partial crown reduction and re-shape of two Holm Oak trees situated within a conservation area

Y13/1165/SH† - 8 Hillside Street Hythe Kent CT21 5EJ - Felling of a Ginkgo biloba tree situated within a conservation area

Y13/1170/SH†* - Channel Tunnel Terminal Ashford Road Newington Folkestone Kent - Freight Access Improvement Scheme, Channel Tunnel U.K Terminal - Submission No. 13/01 - Channel Tunnel Act 1987: Slip road extension and improvement, construction of operational control building, improvement of rejected vehicle exit and associated street furniture.

Y13/1109/SH† - 75 High Street Hythe Kent CT21 5AJ - Listed building consent for alterations to convert the first and second floors, as well as part of ground floor, from office space to four self-contained

Y13/1153/SH - The Old House High Street Elham Canterbury Kent - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising the re-pollarding of four Limes and 3 Sycamores together with a 4 metre partial crown lift of a Yew tree

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

\# - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

† - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

The application marked (**) accords with the Channel Tunnel Act 1987.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/13/01781/FUL: Land adjacent to Ashby Cottage, Westbere Lane, Westbere, CT2 0HH Construction of a two bedroom dwelling in the grounds of Ashby Cottage. **Applicant: Miss M Tucker** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/01980/FUL: 5 Seaway Cottages, Wave Crest, Whitstable, CT5 1EQ Single storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mr A Colvin** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/02064/FUL: 20 New Street, Canterbury, CT1 3SS Side extension to single garage. **Applicant: Mr T Needham** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/02102/ADV: 140-142 Mortimer Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5DX Display of one internally illuminated fascia sign and one internally illuminated projecting sign. **Applicant: New Look Group PLC** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/02108/FUL: Colindale, The Drove, Chestfield, CT5 3NY Domestic extension to rear and new garden outbuilding. **Applicant: Ms W Wilson** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/02112/VAR: 80 Chestfield Road, Chestfield, CT5 3LU Conversion of garage into habitable space and side and rear two storey extension. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Hodgson** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/02113/FUL: 49 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2SE Replacement of 2 No ATMs; widening of stonework to 1 No ATM for DDA access. **Applicant: Lloyds Bank** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/02114/LB: 49 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2SE Replacement of 2 No ATMs; widening of stonework to 1 No ATM for DDA access. **Applicant: Lloyds Bank** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/13/02122/FUL: Herne Bay Railway Station, The Circus, Herne Bay, CT6 8PJ The replacement of the existing 16m high installation to be replaced with a 17.5m high monopole supporting 3 No antennas and 4 No 300mm diameter dishes. 1 no existing equipment cabinet will be replaced with 3 no cabinets with development ancillary thereto. **Applicant: Telefonica UK Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/02123/FUL: Rear of 165 High Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5AQ Extension to roof and installation of dormer window to incorporate additional living accommodation to first floor with associated works. **Applicant: Mr J Pashley** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/02135/LB: Kingsmead House, 68-70 St Stephen's Road, Canterbury, CT2 7JF Installation of aluminium secondary windows. **Applicant: P Moody** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/13/02139/FUL: 128A Millstrood Road, Whitstable, CT5 1PP Demolition of existing detached garage and erection of new attached garage and utility room to the side and rear of existing dwellinghouse and single storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mr N Farenden** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA/13/02150/FUL: The Old Post Office, Valley Road, Barham, CT4 6NX Change of use from mixed residential/retail to a single residential dwelling together with the erection of a single storey rear extension and external alterations. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs N Hudson** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be submitted via public access on the planning pages of the website **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc** to arrive on or before **Monday 16 December 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 22 November 2013

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING APPLICATIONS
LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/00370 Amended plans showing windows fenestration changes: Erection of two detached buildings incorporating 12 flats, offices and communal living area, associated car parking and landscaping (existing dwelling to be demolished)
St Giles Cottage & Access, Old Folkestone Road, Aycliffe, Dover, CT17 9HB **MAR**

DOV/13/00902 Erection of two detached replacement dwellings and construction of a vehicular access (existing dwellings to be demolished)
Upper Freedown, Kingsdown Road, St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe, Dover, CT15 6BB **ARW**

DOV/13/00785 Internal alterations to facilitate conversion to one dwelling
8 & 8A, Athol Terrace, Dover, CT16 1LT **LCA**

DOV/13/00921 Erection of building (over 2 and 3 floors) for use as 3 x 1 bedroom flats and 5 x 2 bedroom flats and ancillary works
12-14, Castle Street, Dover, CT16 1PW **SLC**

DOV/13/00938 Variation of condition 4 of planning permission DOV/11/00279 to allow opening 11.30 to 22.00 Monday to Saturday and 12.00 (midday)-22.00 Sunday (application under sections 73)
Papas Fish & Chips, The Quay, Sandwich, CT13 9EN **LCN**

DOV/13/00874 Change of use of part of building to cookery school, installation of windows and door to front and side
The Chequer Inn, Golf Road, Deal, CT14 6RG **ARW**

DOV/13/00872 Erection of a detached dwelling, construction of a vehicular access and erection of a replacement garage for Swannington
Land fronting Swannington, Church Cliff, Kingsdown, Deal, CT14 8AT **RCAF**

DOV/13/00891 Change of use to cafe (use class A3) and craft shop (use class A1) at ground floor of no. 65, conversion of garage to store and wc facilities, installation of replacement shopfront and associated external alterations; and
internal alterations to facilitate use of the ground floor of no. 64 and the first floors of no. 64 and 65 as one self-contained dwelling
64-65 The Strand, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7DP **CON**

DOV/13/00942 Erection of a two storey side extension
11 Belmont, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7QU **CON**

DOV/13/00951 Erection of a detached dwelling
Land adjacent to 51 Church Path, Deal, CT14 9TH **RSLB**

Reason for Advert Codes:-
MAR - Major Development & affects a Public Right of Way
ARW – Affects a Public Right of Way
CON – Within Conservation Area **LCN** – Listed Building in a Conservation Area
LCA – Listed Building and affects a Conservation Area
SLC – To affect setting of a Listed Building & Conservation Area
RCAF– Affecting a Conservation Area and a public right of way
RSLB – Affects the setting of a Listed Building and a public right of way

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent **within 21 days** marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. Any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

BE PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY



Advertise here
Call 01303 817056
www.kentnews.co.uk

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 09 DECEMBER 2013

SW/13/1312:
Replace two windows at the front of the house to wooden, sliding sash windows to the original size - which matches number 5 Mendfield Street. Reinstall the windowsill and pillars to also match number 5 - 6 Mendfield Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1334:
To replace existing clay brick drive with new paving slabs, to match existing front path - 19 Preston Grove, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1366:
Erection of straw storage barn and hardstanding - Collington Farm, Ashford Road, BADLESMERE; **REASON 3**

SW/13/1373:
Application to vary conditions (2), (3) and (4) of SW/10/0765 (private gypsy and traveller site consisting of eight plots); condition (2) to be varied to allow up to 32 caravans of which no more than 16 can be static caravans or mobile homes; condition (3) such that occupancy is restricted to gypsies and travellers as defined in Annex 1, Planning Policy for Traveller Sites; and condition (4) such that the use is to cease and the site to be restored to its previous condition if it ceases to be occupied by gypsies and travellers as defined in Annex 1, Planning Policy for Traveller Sites - Orchard Park, Oak Lane, UPCHURCH; **REASON 3**

SW/13/1382:
Variation to conditions 2 and 3 of SW/11/1216 to extend permitted hours - Jittermugs, 18A Preston Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/1388:
Extension to existing house by means of a outbuilding in the form of a 'Country Forge' linked to the house by a brick and glazed link block - 1 Swanton Street Cottages, Swanton Street, BREDGAR; **REASON 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on
01303 817056

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/13/1658/S - WEST VIEW, BYDEWS GRANARY, FARLEIGH HILL, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0JB - The erection of gates and fencing; and the erection of a pergola. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1685/N - NEW SHELVE FARM, ASHFORD ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2DS - Change of use of oast and attached barns to a single residential dwelling with associated parking. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1702/S - LAND WEST OF, HERMITAGE LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Outline application for residential development (approx. 250) with access. All other matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) reserved for future consideration. **Reason: 6, 7, 9**

MA/13/1784/S - BRUNGER FARM, CRUMPS LANE, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1EU - Conversion of outbuilding to residential annex. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1785/S - BRUNGER FARM, CRUMPS LANE, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1EU - Listed Building Consent for conversion of outbuilding to residential annex. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1844/S - 9-10 CHURCH WALK, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9NP - Alterations to windows and doors and replacement of front boundary fence. **Reason: 2**

MA/13/1845/S - 9-10 CHURCH WALK, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9NP - Listed building consent for alterations to windows and doors. **Reason: 2, 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Application affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **8th December 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 24th November 2013.

HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA

JAVELIN WAY, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To ensure safe access for highway maintenance vehicles, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit waiting on part of Javelin Way, Ashford.

Waiting will prohibited on the south-western side of Javelin Way, from the junction with the eastern spur of Henwood eastwards to the entrance to Ashford Highways Depot.

Waiting will be prohibited at any time within the following periods

Mondays to Fridays from 17:30 hours through to 06:00 hours each night

Each weekend from Friday at 17:30 hours through to Monday at 06:00 hours

These restrictions take effect from Monday 25 November 2013 for an estimated period of up to 6 months.

The restrictions do not apply to any vehicles involved in highway maintenance works.

The restrictions will be indicated by relevant 'No Waiting' signage and single yellow lines (initially No Waiting cones) on site.

HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA

SOUTH BARHAM ROAD, BARHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow sewer repair works to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of South Barham Road, Barham.

A closure is planned to commence from 11 December with estimated completion by 20 December 2013.

South Barham Road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with The Causeway.

The alternative route is via South Barham Hill, Derringstone Hill and Derringstone Street.

SWEECHBRIDGE ROAD, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER DECEMBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to plane and resurface the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Sweechbridge Road, Herne Bay.

It is planned Sweechbridge Road will be closed from Friday 13 December 2013 at 19:00 hours through to the afternoon of Sunday 15 December, re-opening once the works have been completed. Due to the nature of the works, it is unlikely the road can be re-opened outside working hours.

The closure is in the vicinity of the junction with Neville Road, with no through access between A299 Thanet Way and Reculver and Beltinge.

The alternative routes are as follows

Northbound (towards Reculver) via Heart in Hand Road, A299 Thanet Way and off-slip, Margate Road (South), Margate Road Interchange, Margate Road (North) and Reculver Road

Southbound (from Reculver) via Reculver Road, Margate Road (North), A299 Thanet Way and Sweechbridge Road

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF CANTERBURY) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AN DERESTRICTED ROADS) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2013

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT KENT COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO MAKE AN ORDER UNDER SECTIONS 81, 82, 83 AND 84 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, THE EFFECT OF WHICH WOULD BE TO:

Reduce the speed limit in the following roads from 40mph to 30mph:

Radfall Hill – From a point 5 metres northwest of its junction with Radfall Hill to its junction with South Street.

Chestfield Road – From its junction with South Street northwards to a point 300 metres north of its junction with South Street.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ, or at the offices of the KCC Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

Any person wishing to support the proposal, or to object to it should write to Richard Heaps, KCC Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, , Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 16 December 2013.

VARIOUS ROADS, RURAL CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER NOVEMBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow carriageway patching works to be safely carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on various roads in the rural part of the Canterbury area.

Closures are planned to commence from 25 November 2013 and are between 07:30 hours and 16:30 hours each day.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

WESTWOOD ROAD, KINGSTON closed between the junctions with Jesses Hill and Turks Hill

25 & 26 November

Alternative route via Westwood Road, Marley Lane and Turks Hill

COLDHARBOUR LANE, BRIDGE closed from junction with industrial estate to Bramling Road

26 & 27 November

Alternative route via Bridge Hill, High Street, Town Hill, Bifrons Hill, School Lane, Adisham Road and Bramling Road

WOODLANDS ROAD, ADISHAM / WOODLANDS LANE, BRIDGE closed for entire length of both roads, i.e. between the junctions with The Street and Poor Start Lane

27-29 November and 2 & 3 December

Alternative route via Poor Start Lane, Bramling Road, Adisham Downs Road, Pond Hill and The Street

COLE HILL, BARHAM closed between the junctions with Covet lane and Railway Hill

3 & 4 December

Alternative route via Covet Lane, Valley Road and Greenhills

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

NIGHTINGALE ROAD, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit northbound traffic on part of Nightingale Road, Dover.

A northbound closure is planned to commence from 9 December 2013 for up to 2 weeks, with the possibility of an additional week's closure from 6 January 2014, subject to progress with the works.

Nightingale Road will be closed to northbound traffic between the junctions with Barton Road and Heathfield Avenue, with no access into it from Barton Road.

The alternative route is via Minerva Avenue and Heathfield Avenue.

Southbound traffic is unaffected, and will still be able to still exit into Barton Road.

NORTHBOURNE ROAD, GREAT MONGEHAM, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a water supply to a new development, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Northbourne Road, Great Mongeham, Deal.

A closure is planned to commence from 9 December 2013 for up to 3 days. Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside normal working hours.

Northbourne Road will be closed in the vicinity of Old Barn Cottage. Access remains from either direction up to where the road is closed, but no through access.

The alternative route is via Willow Road, Deal Road and The Street.

HIGHWAYS – GRAVESHAM AREA

PARROCK ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of lining improvement scheme, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Parrock Road, on or after 26th November 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Leith Park Road to Bronte View.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via Old Road East, Wrotham Road, A227, A226 West Street, Crooked Lane and Lord Street.

HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA

BROOMFIELD ROAD, BROOMFIELD & KINGSWOOD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to the culvert, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Broomfield Road, Broomfield & Kingswood, on or after 9 December 2013 for up to 10 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between A20 Ashford Road and Park Barn Road.

The alternative route is via A20 Ashford Road, Chegworth Road, Lenham Road and Gravelly Bottom Road.

LOWER FANT ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a new water connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lower Fant Road, on or after 25 November 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 48.

The alternative route is via Upper Fant Road, Lower Fant Road.

HIGHWAYS – SEVENOAKS AREA

EGG PIE LANE, LEIGH, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT works to access an overhead network cable to restore customer service, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Egg Pie Lane, Leigh, Sevenoaks , on or after 25th November 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Scabharbour Road for a distance of around 600 metres. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Egg Pie Lane, Philpots Lane, Scabharbour Road and vice versa.

WHITE HOUSE ROAD, WEALD, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a new connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on White House Road, Weald, Sevenoaks, on or after 25th November 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of White House Lane and Rycroft Lane and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Rycroft Lane, Gracious Lane (Chevening), Gravel Pitt Lane and vice versa.

HIGHWAYS – SHEPWAY AREA

CASTLE HILL AVENUE, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) TEMPORARY DECEMBER ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access to a temporary site entrance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit waiting on part of Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone.

Waiting will be prohibited at any time on both sides of the northbound carriageway of Castle Hill Avenue, from a point level with the northern boundary of the offices of Smith-Woolley & Perry northwards to the existing entrance to Ingles Manor.

These restrictions apply at the following times

Mondays to Fridays from 07:00 hours to 18:00 hours each day

Saturdays from 07:00 hours to 13:00 hours

These restrictions take effect from Monday 9 December 2013 with an anticipated end date of September 2014.

The restrictions will be indicated by relevant No Waiting signage and single yellow lines (possibly initially No Waiting cones) on site.

CHURCH LANE, NEW ROMNEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a water main to a new development, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on part of Church Lane, New Romney, as follows.

Church Lane will be closed from 'Owlers' southwards for the remainder of the road.

Weekday closures are planned to commence from 25 November 2013 for up to 2 weeks. The road will be closed from Monday morning through until Friday afternoon both weeks, re-opening at weekends.

There is no alternative route as the road is a *cul-de-sac*; every effort will be made to allow any essential access when it is safe to do so.

HIGHWAYS – THANET AREA

BELMONT ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow carriageway repairs to be safely carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Belmont Road, Broadstairs.

Belmont Road will be closed beyond the junction with Wardour Close.

Closures planned to commence from 25 November 2013 for up to 5 days, between 09:00 hours and 16:00 hours each day.

There is no alternative route as the road is a *cul-de-sac*. Access will be maintained whenever it is safe to do so, but there are likely to be some delays and certain times when access is not possible, due to the nature of the works and the use of machinery.

EPPLE ROAD, BIRCHINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow bridge strengthening and refurbishment works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Epple Road, Birchington.

Epple Road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The closure is planned to commence from 25 November 2013 for up to 5 months, or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Cross Road, Epple Bay Road, Rosetti Road, Station Approach, Alpha Road and Epple Road (also including Minnis Road and Sandles Road in reverse due to the one-way system).

THE VALE, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow works to be safely carried out to remove trees near a railway bridge, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of The Vale, Broadstairs.

A closure is planned for Saturday 14 December 2013 from 08:40 hours to 20:00 hours, with the road re-opened as soon as works are completed.

The Vale will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge, with access from either direction as far as the bridge, but no through access.

The alternative route is via Ramsgate Road and Luton Avenue.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 0300 333 5539 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS – TUNBRIDGE WELLS

BARDEN ROAD, SPELDHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a carriageway change of priority, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Barden Road, Speldhurst, on or after 9 December 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The whole length of the road will be closed.

The alternative route for westbound traffic is via B2176 Penshurst Road, Poundsbridge Lane, Poundsbridge, Penshurst Road and Speldhurst Road and for eastbound is via B2176 Penshurst Road/Bidborough Ridge, A26 London Road, Speldhurst Road, Etherington Hill and Speldhurst Hill.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 24th November 2013**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 0300 333 5539 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

To place your notice here, call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817056

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW – IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB509

IN THE PARISHES OF THANINGTON WITHOUT AND HARBLEDOWN & ROUGH COMMON

PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB509 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath CB509, between its junction with Public Footpath CB456 and Public Bridleway CB521A at NGR TR123 576, from the 23rd November 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before January 2014.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH KM295

IN THE PARISH OF STAPLEHURST
PUBLIC FOOTPATH KM295 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath KM295, between its junction with KM296 and Couchman Green Lane from the 22nd November 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before January 2014.

The path is to be closed because works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via KM296 and Couchman Green Lane and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Katie Cullen

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 24th November 2013**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/03260/HOUSE Sunny View Iden Green Road, Benenden
- Single storey rear extension and part two storey extension (CA)

13/03273/HOUSE Glebe Place Brenchley Road, Brenchley
- Demolition of existing lean-to structure, single storey side extension (CA)

13/03333/LBC Ashmede Crook Road, Brenchley
- Listed Building Consent - Single-storey rear addition and minor alterations (LB)

13/03287/FULL Esso Pantiles Service Station, Broadwater
- Retrospective - erection of fence to rear boundary of property (3.2m H x 25m L) (CA)

13/03210/HOUSE Four Wents Farmhouse Goudhurst Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Detached garage with office above (LB)

13/03332/LBC Summerhill House 73 London Road, Culverden
- Listed Building Consent - Create a connection between the cottage and main house via a small doorway (LB)

13/02981/HOUSE 3 Clay Cottages Clayhill, Goudhurst
- Lowering part of garden to create a single parking space with gates and associated landscaping (LB) (CA)

13/02982/LBC 3 Clay Cottages Clayhill, Goudhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Lowering part of garden to create a single parking space with gates and associated works (LB)

13/02999/HOUSE Middle Cottage North Road, Goudhurst
- Loft conversion with dormer windows at rear (LB) (CA)

13/03264/FULL Playing Fields Bethany School, Goudhurst
- Replace existing rugby pitch with synthetic sports pitch, including associated cut and fill and erection of fencing (MAJOR)

13/03275/FULL Risebridge Farm Ranters Lane, Goudhurst
- Closure of existing access and create new vehicular access onto Ranters Lane for Farmhouse Oast House and Office Buildings; Detached garage for Farmhouse with drive; Denote curtilage of Farmhouse with boundary hedge (LB)

13/03298/MOD1 Land Adjacent 4 Shernfold Church Road, Goudhurst
- Variation of Section 106 Agreement in order to allow a mortgagee exemption clause (TW/91/0613 refers) (PROW)

13/03269/HOUSE 1 Broad Grove Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Single-storey rear extension; Loft conversion with dormer at rear and velux windows (CA)

13/03366/HOUSE 54 Madeira Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Orangery to replace conservatory. Glazed timber light on existing kitchen roof (CA)

13/03211/FULL Cowbeech Farm Back Road, Sandhurst
- Amendment to the garage design granted approval under TW/13/01868/FUL for a replacement dwelling and detached garage (LB)(CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 23 November 2013

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

BE PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY





Advertise here

Call 01303 817056

www.kentnews.co.uk

Fill your job vacancies fast

To advertise in this section call: 01303 817040

jobs24.co.uk IN-PAPER • ONLINE • ON MOBILE

It's jobs for Kent

WELCOME TO THE ALL-NEW jobs24.co.uk

more features
•
easier job search
•
new design



Discover it today.

‘Annual heart screening could help stop tragedy’

A genetic condition robbed Tobi Alabi of a career in professional football just as he was starting out, and now he wants to make sure it does not happen to others. He talks to **Greg Miles** about how his condition went undetected and how he has managed to take a positive from shattered dreams.

HIS career ended before it had really begun, but Tobi Alabi is taking a positive from having his world turned upside down and being told he could never play football again.

The 20-year-old collapsed and blacked out during a non-league game last month because of a heart defect thought to be similar to the one that caused Premier League player Fabrice Muamba to almost die on the pitch last year.

After a promising youth career with Millwall came to an end in the summer, Alabi harboured hopes of making it back into the professional game, but he is now not allowed to do anything likely to raise his heart rate.

Although his dreams have been shattered, he is taking a positive by campaigning for more awareness of heart conditions and calling for regular heart-testing for footballers.

Had the Erith man benefited from such a campaign in his younger days, he would have been saved from pushing on with a career that has now been taken away from him.

It is a situation that is particularly difficult for the striker, who grew up playing for Crayford Arrows and had a trial with West Ham, to take as he collapsed several times in his teenage years, the problem being put down to dehydration or asthma.

“The first time it happened was when I was 14. I was training with Millwall and we were having a drinks break and I felt dizzy,” he said. “I wasn’t short of breath, but I just fainted. One of the boy’s mums was a paramedic and thought I had dehydrated – that was what I thought, too.

“It happened again a month later when I was playing basketball for my school.

“It didn’t happen again for another three years. The next time was when I was 18 and having a kick-about with the boys. I just blacked out. That time I went to the GP and they said I was asthmatic, so that’s what we went with.

“The last three times were all this year. The first was in March – it was my first day with my new team in Sweden. They put it down to the fact I had flown out there and it was cold. Everybody has put it down to something else.

“It was close to happening again when I was in training and they referred me to the doctors.

“They said I had asthma and would have a heart check. Before that happened, I terminated my contract with the club and left.”

The move to Sweden, which was preceded by loan spells at Ebbsfleet United and Hampton and Richmond, came about after his contract with Millwall expired, bringing an end to his 11-year association with the south-east London club.

Although he was a regular in the first team at the Swedish second-tier side Ljungskile SK, where he signed a two-year deal, things did not work out and he headed home after just 12 games.

There were trial offers from Football League clubs such as Bristol City, AFC Wimbledon and Notts County, but Alabi decided to drop into non-league with Ryman Premier side Met Police.

“I thought I might as well have other teams watch me and keep fit at the same time,” he said.

It was there that he had the third episode – one that would leave him in hospital for three weeks and out of football for good.

He collapsed in a friendly against Molesey, but fortunately the opposition had a doctor in their team who helped deal with the situation.

“I didn’t feel right in the week leading up to the game,” Alabi said. “It’s really hard to explain – I felt really distant.

“I felt within myself, if that makes any sense. I wasn’t really aware of things, my reactions were a bit slow.



“My heart stopped for about five seconds. I realised then that it was life-threatening. That was when I realised my playing career was over”

Tobi Alabi, former footballer

“I went for a through ball, which I didn’t get, and as I was jogging backwards I got really short of breath and couldn’t really breathe. I was trying to talk to the person next to me, but I started feeling dizzy.

“I was out for 30 or 40 seconds and afterwards I felt awful. I couldn’t walk properly. I was on the floor disorientated for 10 or 15 minutes. I was escorted off the pitch and taken to hospital after the game.”

He was kept in Darenth Valley Hospital, where tests revealed an enlarged left atrium of his heart.

Alabi’s worst fears were confirmed.

It was initially thought to be hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), which is what struck Bolton Wanderers’ Muamba last year.

Alabi collapsed again while doing a a treadmill test in hospital and he refused to go any further. The decision means that doctors have been unable to officially diagnose HCM, and instead the condition has the tag of an undefined heart defect.

“My heart stopped for about five seconds. I realised then that it was life-threatening. That was when I realised my career was over,” he said.

“They wanted to put a pacemaker in, but with my age and the amount of times it would need to be replaced it had too many risks as they only last 10 years.

“Until they are 100 per cent sure, they have given me a heart monitor, which will stay for a maximum of three years.

“It will monitor my heart and if I get the symptoms or I do black out again, then it’s all recorded. It can also send a shock to my heart.”

AT first it was not a decision with which Alabi coped well. He had to come to terms with the fact that all he had worked for from the age of eight was to mean nothing.

Nevertheless, he took inspiration from those with whom he had shared a hospital ward before having his heart monitor fitted.

“I had two or three days when I was really down and didn’t want to have any guests. I didn’t want to see anyone,” he said.

“I was in a ward with a lot of older guys who were having triple heart bypassses and a lot of them were giving me support and trying to encourage me because they knew what was happening.

“After the third day I was thinking about what I was going to do and feeling sorry for myself.

“I thought if those guys can have a positive outlook on life with all the things they’re going through, why can’t I do the same. I thought why can’t I make a change.”

Now Alabi is making it his mission to stop others going through what he did, with the help of more regular screening.

“I want yearly screening and to make clubs aware of how to deal with it, along with making people aware of the symptoms,” he said.

“Why are we waiting for the worst case to happen before we nip it in the bud? It’s easier to tell a 14- or 15-year-old they cannot play football than a 20-year-old who has made life decisions by then.

“These early screenings need to be done because they give people another chance in life. There are still a lot of things I will be able to do in life, but it would have been easier if I had a screening earlier.”

With football being all he had ever dreamt of, Alabi had understandably never prepared for having to retire at such a young age.

“I was so sure it was what I was going to do that I didn’t ever think of something else, despite everybody saying football is not everything,” he said.

“If you think of the other things to do while you’re a footballer, it means you don’t believe in it. As a young lad you just want to play.

“My family have been extremely supportive and have been with me through a tough time. It’s not been easy for them.”

■ **For more information about Tobi Alabi’s story, visit his website www.tobialabi.com or follow him on Twitter @Alabss_**

SO JUST WHAT IS HYPERTROPHIC CARDIOMYOPATHY? (HCM)

HCM affects one in every 500 people and is a condition in which the heart muscle becomes thick, making it harder for blood to leave the heart.

That forces the heart to work harder to pump blood while also making it more difficult for the heart to relax and fill with blood.

It is often inherited as a result of defective genes that control muscle growth and can affect people of all ages but more severely younger people.

Common symptoms include shortness of breath, chest pain, heart palpitations, lightheadedness and fainting.

High-profile cases other than Fabrice Muamba have included former West Ham and Man City midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe, who collapsed and died in a Confederations Cup match for Cameroon 10 years ago.

Ex-Stevenage defender Mitchell Cole died in December last year at the age of 27, having earlier retired from football after a scan revealed symptoms of HCM.

Former Brentford and Rotherham manager and current Aldershot Town boss Andy Scott was forced to retire from playing in 2005 after heart problems became apparent while he was with Leyton Orient

Picture: MILLWALL FC



UNTREATED: Tobi Alabi's previous collapses were put down to dehydration or asthma until a blackout last month

Grim scenes at Spurs raised profile of hidden condition

THE footballing world went into shock on March 17 last year when a seemingly fit and healthy player collapsed and almost died on the pitch.

Fabrice Muamba's collapse on the White Hart Lane pitch during Bolton Wanderers' FA Cup sixth-round match with Tottenham caused many to sit up and take notice of a topic not often enough in the headlines.

The midfielder suffered a cardiac arrest and received lengthy treatment, including several shocks from a defibrillator as his heart stopped for 78 minutes.

It was two days before his heart began beating again without medication.

And it took two months for him to make a recovery after he was fitted with an implantable cardioverter-defribillator (ICD), which regulates heart beats with electric shocks.

Picture: BOLTON WANDERERS FC



SURVIVAL: Muamba is now retired

KEA

Sport Shorts

» Email **sports@kosmedia.co.uk** or call Greg Miles on **01303 817177**

Gillingham embarrassed as part-timers pull off a shock

GILLINGHAM suffered an embarrassing exit from the FA Cup, losing 1-0 in their televised first-round replay against Brackley Town.

The Conference North side made it to the second round for the first time in their 123-year history thanks to a deflected effort from Glenn Walker in the 21st minute.

The Gills, who forced a replay thanks to a 96th-minute equaliser in the first tie, created plenty of chances throughout the second half.

Chris Whelpdale headed against the post and John Mousinho also hit the woodwork before his follow-up effort was cleared off the line.

But there was no way back as Brackley held on for a famous victory and joined Dover Athletic and Burscough as non-league sides to have dumped the Gills out of the FA Cup's early stages in recent years.



OUT! Cup hopes over



POINTS: DeGale won in 12 rounds

DeGale eases to points win over Davis

JAMES DeGale secured a unanimous points victory over American Dyah Davis at Bluewater's Glow complex last weekend.

The 2008 Olympic gold-medallist was dominant throughout the fight, which was screened live on Channel 5, to retain his WBC silver super middleweight title in front of a crowd of some 3,000.

"I made a fast start. It was nice. I was a bit lazy and switched off a couple of times," he told Channel 5 after the fight.

"I'm not fully pleased, to be honest. I maybe switched off a bit and got hit by a stupid shot. It's another 12 rounds under my belt."

In what was his third fight at the Kent venue, he recorded a comfortable 118-110 points win on the three scorecards.

Non-league sides learn fate on the road to Wembley

WHITSTABLE Town will continue their record-breaking FA Trophy run at Hendon in the competition's first round.

The Ryman One South side beat Carshalton 2-1 last weekend to continue their best-ever run in the competition.

Ebbsfleet United have been given a home tie against Gloucester City after easing past Bromley 4-1.

Dover Athletic will travel to East Thurrock United after they beat Bath City 1-0.

Tonbridge Angels overcame AFC Sudbury in their final qualifying-round replay on Tuesday, meaning they will play St Albans at home.

Conference Premier pair Dartford and Welling United will play Forest Green Rovers (A) and Braintree Town (H) on the first-round Saturday of November 30.

Darts bring back ex-winger on loan

DARTFORD have re-signed former winger Dave Martin on a month's loan from Luton Town.

The 28-year-old had a successful period with the Darts from 2005-07, which earned him a move into the Football League with Crystal Palace.

After spells with Derby County, Millwall and Southend United, he moved to Luton in January this year.

Conway to make 2014 IndyCar return

MIKE Conway has switched to Ed Carpenter Racing for the 2014 IndyCar series.

The Sevenoaks racer, a two-time IndyCar series race-winner, has been driving in the American series full-time since 2009 and last year was on the books of AJ Foyt.

He will continue to compete solely on the street circuits in the series.

Keep up to date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:
Twitter @KentSport Facebook www.facebook.com/kentsport.3

ŠKODA

Special Offers on Special Editions at Caffyns



Buy with **Low rate finance*** and get **3 years free servicing†**
on these Special Editions at **Caffyns ŠKODA Ashford**

The ŠKODA Fabia Reaction 1.2 12V 69PS now only

£9,690[1]

WAS £13,405 OTR

- **Additional specification over and above the Fabia S trim** includes: 3-spoke leather steering wheel, Chrome package, Floor mat, 16" Comet alloys – Black, Black door mirrors, Black grille and headlights, Black roof, Rear spoiler, Sunset glass, Front fog lights and Manual air conditioning
- Available in **Meteor Grey** (solid paint) only and you will have to hurry as we only have limited stocks available.

The ŠKODA Roomster SE 1.2 TSI 86PS You save

£4,010[2]

NOW £9,990 OTR

- **Spec includes:** Panoramic sunroof, Manual air conditioning, 4 electric windows and electric door mirrors, Remote central locking, Acoustic rear parking sensors, Category 1 alarm and immobiliser, 15" Avior alloy wheels, Height and reach adjustable steering wheel.
- Limited stock available in **Shark Blue** or **Brilliant Silver metallic**

The ŠKODA Yeti Adventure Buy now and get

£2,265[3]

of FREE extras

- **Extra spec includes:** 17" 'Matterhorn' alloy wheels, Black roof with black door mirrors, Silver roof rails, Adventure upholstery, Amundsen satellite nav and DAB radio, Bluetooth, Multi-function steering wheel with silver stitching and controls for Bluetooth and radio
- Limited stocks of Yeti Adventure **from £18,640 OTR** in Candy White or Brilliant Silver — buy now and receive the above extra spec free of charge

7.9% APR representative

1. Offer only applicable to ŠKODA Fabia Reaction 1.2 12v 69PS in Meteor Grey, Fabia Reaction 1.2 12v 69PS was available at £13,405 between 30/05/13 and 30/06/13. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. Vehicle shown may differ from UK specification. Discount only applies to RRP of vehicle. **2.** Offer only applicable to ŠKODA Roomster SE 1.2 TSI 86PS in Brilliant Silver metallic (shown) or Shark Blue (RRP £14,000 OTR, Save £4,010, Now £9,990 OTR). **3.** Yeti Adventure trim available on 2.0 TDI CR 110PS DPF from £18,640 OTR & 2.0 TDI CR 140PS 4x4 DPF from £21,215 OTR. Model shown is Yeti Adventure 2.0 TDI 140PS 4WD. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Subject to availability. Optional specification cannot be added on these offers. On the road prices include delivery, 12 months' Road Fund Licence and DVLA First Registration Fee at £55. †3 years or 30,000 miles free servicing (whichever comes first) is available when purchased with ŠKODA Finance. *7.9% APR representative. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available for over 18s. Excludes the Channel Islands. ŠKODA Finance. Freepost ŠKODA Finance. Terms and conditions apply. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time, are subject to availability and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. We can introduce you to a limited number of lenders to assist with your purchase, who may pay us for introducing you to them Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. OTR Price includes delivery, 12 months' Road Fund Licence, DVLA First registration Fee and applies to the United Kingdom only. Model shown may vary from UK specification.

Caffyns ŠKODA Ashford
Monument Way
Orbital Park
Ashford
Kent TN24 OHB
01233 220785
www.caffynsskoda.co.uk

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA range: Urban 21.7 (13.0) to 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 40.4 (7.0) to 94.2 (3.0), Combined 30.4 (9.3) to 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions for the ŠKODA range 217 to 88g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.